Biographical
History

Biographical
History

Moral Biography;

OR, THE

WORTHIES OF ENGLAND

DISPLAYED:

CONTAINING

THE LIVES OF PERSONS EMINENTLY DISTINGUISHED FOR THEIR VIRTUES AND TALENTS.

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF

PRIVATE FAMILIES

AND

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

SECOND EDITION, IMPROVED.

Embellished with a fine Engraving.

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ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

THE firſt impreſſion of this little work having ſold off with a rapidity beyond the publiſher's expectations, he has prevailed on a literary friend to undertake a *reviſal* of it. This has been performed with conſiderable care. A life of the celebrated Gainſborough has been ſubſtituted for one of leſs

importance. Many emendations have been ſupplied in the former lives; and the Editor will ſtill hold himſelf indebted to any reader who may point out any remaining inaccuracy.

Strand,
Nov. 1797.

PRE-

PREFACE.

IT has been juſtly remarked, that by having "before our eyes the principles of men of honour and probity, enforced by example, we may be animated to fix upon ſome great model for the rule of our conduct, and at the ſame time we ſhall pay the only tribute in our power to the memory of their public and private virtues."

Under the immediate impreſſion of this remark, the preſent publication has been undertaken, and ſuch *ſelections* made from the memoirs of ILLUSTRIOUS ENGLISHMEN, as may ſerve to form a compendium of MORAL BIOGRAPHY, adapted to the pe-

peruſal of young perſons either in private families or public ſchools.

The Editor therefore humbly ſubmits this work to his patrons and friends, from the hope that it may prove deſirable, as no attempt, on ſo convenient a ſcale, has before been offered to their attention.

Strand,
Oct. 1797. G. S.

CON-

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MORAL

MORAL BIOGRAPHY.

JOSEPH ADDISON.

" He taught us how to live, and, oh! too high
The price of knowledge, taught us how to die."

TICKELL.

IT ſeems to be a kind of reſpect due to the memory of excellent men, eſpecially of thoſe whom their wit and learning have made famous, to deliver ſome account of themſelves, as well as their works, to poſterity: for this reaſon, how fond do we ſee ſome people of diſcovering any little perſonal ſtory of the great men of antiquity; ſince their families, the common accidents of their lives, and even their features, have been the ſubject of critical inquiries.

JOSEPH ADDISON, the ſon of Launcelot Addiſon, dean of Litchfield, was born at Milſton, near Ambroſbury, in the county of Wilts, of which place his father was then rector, on the firſt of May, 1672.

The firſt rudiments of education he received under the care of the Rev. Mr. Naiſh, at Ambroſbury. He was afterwards removed to a ſchool at Saliſbury, and from thence to the Charter-houſe, where he was under the tuition of the learned Dr. Ellis, and where he contracted an intimacy with Mr. Steele, afterwards Sir Richard, which laſted as long as Mr. Addiſon lived.

He was not above fifteen when he went to the univerſity of Oxford, where he was entered of Queen's college, in which his father had ſtudied. He applied himſelf at this time with ſuch diligence to claſſical learning, that he had acquired an elegant Latin ſtyle before he arrived at that age in which lads uſually begin to write good Engliſh.

A paper of his verſes in that tongue fell, by accident, in the year 1689, into the hands of Dr. Lancaſter, provoſt of Queen's college, who was ſo well pleaſed with them, that he immediately procured their author to be elected a demy of Magdalen college, where he took his degrees of bachelor and maſter of arts.

He was twenty-two years of age before he publiſhed any thing in Engliſh; and then appeared a copy of verſes addreſſed to Mr. Dryden, which procured him immediately,

mediately, from the beſt judges in that nice age, a great reputation.

Mr. Addiſon now finding his reputation in ſome degree eſtabliſhed as a poet, obliged the world frequently with poems upon different ſubjects; amongſt the reſt, one, dated the third of April, 1694, directed to Mr. H. S. that is, Henry Sacheverell, who was afterwards the famous Dr. Sacheverell, with whom he lived in perfect friendſhip.

The following year he began to have higher views, which diſcovered themſelves in a poem to King William, on one of his campaigns, addreſſed to the lord-keeper Sir John Somers, which found many readers.

In 1701 he wrote from Italy an epiſtolary poem to Montague, Lord Halifax. This was moſt juſtly admired as a finiſhed piece of its kind; and indeed ſome have pronounced it the very beſt of Mr. Addiſon's poetical performances.

In 1699 he made the tour of Italy, and returned home in 1703.

In 1705 he publiſhed an account of his travels, dedicated to Lord Somers. From want of taſte, this performance was at firſt but indifferently received, but it roſe to five times the original price before a ſecond edition could be printed.

The ſame year he attended Lord Halifax to Hanover; and in the ſucceeding year

he was made choice of for under-ſecretary to Sir Charles Hedges, then appointed ſecretary of ſtate; and ſoon after, the Earl of Sunderland ſucceeding Sir Charles in that office, continued Mr. Addiſon in the poſt of under-ſecretary.

While he was in Ireland, his friend Steele publiſhed the Tatler, which appeared for the firſt time on the 12th of April, 1709.

The papers written by Mr. Addiſon were not diſtinguiſhed in this collection by any mark; but Sir Richard Steele, at the requeſt of Mr. Tickell, pointed them out to him; and not only ſo, but ſhowed him ſuch as they were jointly concerned in: and theſe, as well as his own, are printed in the ſecond volume of Mr. Addiſon's works.

Immediately after the Tatler was laid down, Sir Richard Steele formed the project of the Spectator; the plan of which he concerted with our author.

The firſt paper appeared on the firſt of March, 1711. So celebrated and popular were the papers of the Spectator, in their firſt origin, that the ſale was calculated to be no leſs than 1680 daily: it may therefore at this day appear but common juſtice to the talents and virtues of the author, that it ſhould have a place in every library. In the courſe of that celebrated work, Mr. Addiſon furniſhed a great part of

of thoſe papers which were moſt admired. It was finiſhed on the ſixth of September, 1712. To prevent any diſputes or miſtake, which might otherwiſe have happened, he took care to diſtinguiſh his papers, throughout the whole, by one of the letters in the name of the muſe CLIO.

The Guardian, a paper in the ſame taſte, and, which is ſaying much more, in the ſame ſpirit, entertained the town in the years 1713 and 1714. Mr. Addiſon had a large ſhare therein, and his papers were particularly applauded. He alſo wrote once or twice in the Lover, another periodical paper.

In 1713 appeared his famous tragedy of Cato. This play was acted night after night, for a longer time than the public had allowed to any drama before.

As ſpecimens of his talents for poetry, the following extracts are offered:

Cato's Soliloquy.

IT muſt be ſo—Plato, thou reaſon'ſt well!——
Elſe whence this pleaſing hope, this fond deſire,
This longing after immortality?
Or whence this ſecret dread, and inward horror,
Of falling into nought? Why ſhrinks the ſoul
Back on herſelf, and ſtartles at deſtruction?
'Tis the divinity that ſtirs within us;
'Tis heaven itſelf, that points out an hereafter,
And intimates eternity to man.
Eternity! thou pleaſing, dreadful thought!
Through what variety of untried being,
Through what new ſcenes and changes muſt we paſs!

The wide, th' unbounded proſpect lies before me;
But ſhadows, clouds, and darkneſs, reſt upon it.
Here will I hold. If there's a power above us,
(And that there is, all nature cries aloud
Through all her works) he muſt delight in virtue;
And that which he delights in muſt be happy.

AN ODE.

I.

THE ſpacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal ſky,
And ſpangled heavens, a ſhining frame,
Their great original proclaim.
Th' unwearied ſun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's power diſplay;
And publiſhes, to every land,
The work of an Almighty hand.

II.

Soon as the evening ſhades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale;
And nightly, to the liſtening earth,
Repeats the ſtory of her birth:
Whilſt all the ſtars that round her burn,
And all the planets, in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And ſpread the truth from pole to pole.

III.

What though, in ſolemn ſilence, all
Move round the dark terreſtrial ball;
What though no real voice, nor ſound,
Amidſt their radiant orbs be found:
In Reaſon's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
For ever ſinging as they ſhine,
The hand that made us is divine.

In

In his leiſure moments he applied himſelf to a work on the evidences of Chriſtianity, the firſt part whereof, though unfiniſhed, is preſerved and printed in his works. He likewiſe intended to have paraphraſed ſome of the Pſalms of David, and to have written another tragedy; but a long and painful relapſe broke all his deſigns, and deprived the world of this excellent perſon in the month of June, 1719. He died at Holland-houſe, near Kenſington, and left behind him an only daughter by the Counteſs Dowager of Warwick, whom he married in 1716.

Dr. Johnſon obſerves of Mr. Addiſon—"As a deſcriber of life and manners, he muſt be allowed to ſtand perhaps the firſt of the firſt rank.

"As a teacher of wiſdom, he may be confidently followed. His religion has nothing in it enthuſiaſtic or ſuperſtitious: he appears neither weakly credulous, nor wantonly ſceptical; his morality is neither dangerouſly lax, nor impracticably rigid. All the enchantment of fancy, and all the cogency of argument, are employed to recommend to the reader his real intereſt, the care of pleaſing the Author of his being. Truth is ſhown ſometimes as the phantom of a viſion; ſometimes appears half veiled in an allegory; ſometimes attracts regard in the robes of fancy, and ſometimes ſteps forth in the confidence of

reaſon. She wears a thouſand dreſſes, and in all is pleaſing.

"Whoever wiſhes to attain an Engliſh ſtyle, familiar, but not coarſe, and elegant, but not oſtentatious, muſt give his days and nights to the volumes of Addiſon."

Of the manner of Mr. Addiſon's death ſome account has been given by Dr. Young. From him we learn, that after a long and manly, but vain ſtruggle with his diſtemper, Mr. Addiſon diſmiſſed his phyſicians, and with them all hopes of life. But with his hopes of life he diſmiſſed not his concern for the living; but ſent for the young Earl of Warwick, ſon to his lady by a former huſband, who immediately came; but life now glimmering in the ſocket, the earl was ſilent. After a decent and proper pauſe, his lordſhip ſaid—"Dear Sir, you ſent for me: I believe and hope that you have ſome commands; I ſhall hold them moſt ſacred." Forcibly graſping the youth's hand, Mr. Addiſon ſoftly replied—"See in what peace a Chriſtian can die!"—He ſpoke with difficulty, and ſoon expired.

ALFRED.

ALFRED.

ALFRED, ſtyled the Great, was born at Wantage, in Berkſhire, then a royal ſeat, A. D. 849. He was the youngeſt ſon of Ethelwolf, King of the Weſt Saxons. His merits may with advantage be ſet in oppoſition to thoſe of any monarch which the annals of any age or any nation can preſent to us.—He ſeems indeed to be the model of that perfect character which, under the denomination of a ſage or wiſe man, philoſophers have been fond of delineating, rather as a fiction of their imagination, than in hopes of ever ſeeing it really exiſting: ſo happily were all his virtues tempered together; ſo juſtly were they blended; and ſo powerfully did each prevent the other from exceeding its proper boundaries! He knew how to reconcile the moſt enterpriſing ſpirit with the cooleſt moderation; the moſt ſevere juſtice with the gentleſt lenity; the greateſt vigour in commanding with the moſt perfect affability of deportment; the higheſt capacity and inclination for ſcience, with the moſt ſhining talents for action. His civil and military virtues are almoſt

equally the objects of our admiration: excepting only, that the former, being more rare among princes, as well as more uſeful, ſeem chiefly to challenge our applauſe. Fortune alone, by throwing him into a barbarous age, deprived him of hiſtorians worthy to tranſmit his fame to poſterity; and we wiſh to ſee him delineated in more lively colours, and with more particular ſtrokes, that we may at leaſt perceive ſome of thoſe ſmall ſpecks and blemiſhes, from which, as a man, it is impoſſible he could be entirely exempted.

But we ſhould give but an imperfect idea of Alfred's merit, were we to confine our narration to his military exploits, and were not more particular in our account of his inſtitutions for the execution of juſtice, and of his zeal for the encouragement of arts and ſciences.

After Alfred had ſubdued, and had ſettled or expelled the Danes, he found the kingdom in the moſt wretched condition; deſolated by the ravages of thoſe barbarians, and thrown into diſorders, which were calculated to perpetuate its miſery. Though the great armies of the Danes were broken, the country was full of ſtraggling troops of that nation, who, being accuſtomed to live by plunder, were become incapable of induſtry; and who, from the natural ferocity of their manners, indulged themſelves in committing vio-

violence, even beyond what was requiſite to ſupply their neceſſities. The Engliſh themſelves, reduced to the moſt extreme indigence by theſe continued depredations, had ſhaken off all bands of government; and thoſe who had been plundered to-day betook themſelves next day to the like diſorderly life, and, from deſpair, joined the robbers in pillaging and ruining their fellow-citizens. Theſe were the evils for which it was neceſſary that the vigilance and activity of Alfred ſhould provide a remedy.

That he might render the execution of juſtice ſtrict and regular, he divided all England into counties; theſe counties he ſubdivided into hundreds, and the hundreds into tithings. Every houſeholder was anſwerable for the behaviour of his family and ſlaves, and even of his gueſts, if they lived above three days in his houſe. And no man could change his habitation, without a warrant or certificate from the borſholder, or headborough, of the tithing to which he formerly belonged.

Such a regular diſtribution of the people, with ſuch a ſtrict confinement in their habitation, may not be neceſſary in times when men are more enured to obedience and juſtice. But Alfred took care to temper theſe rigours by other inſtitutions favourable to the freedom of the citizens; and nothing could be more

popular and liberal than his plan for the adminiſtration of juſtice. The borſholder ſummoned together his whole decennary to aſſiſt him in deciding any leſſer difference which occurred among the members of this ſmall community. In affairs of greater moment, in appeals from the decennary, or in controverſies ariſing between members of different decennaries, the cauſe was brought before the hundred, which conſiſted of ten decennaries, or a hundred families of freemen, and which was regularly aſſembled once in four weeks for the deciding of cauſes.

Their method of deciſion deſerves to be noted, as being the origin of juries; an inſtitution, admirable in itſelf, and the beſt calculated for the preſervation of liberty and the adminiſtration of juſtice, that ever was deviſed by the wit of man. Twelve freeholders were choſen; who, having ſworn, together with the hundreder, or preſiding magiſtrate of that diviſion, to adminiſter impartial juſtice, proceeded to the examination of that cauſe which was ſubmitted to their juriſdiction.

And beſides theſe monthly meetings of the hundred, there was an annual meeting, appointed for a more general inſpection of the police of the diſtrict; for the inquiry into crimes, the correction of abuſes in magiſtrates, and the obliging

of

of every perſon to ſhow the decennary in which he was regiſtered.

The next ſuperior court to that of the hundred was the county court, which met twice a year, after Michaelmas and Eaſter, and conſiſted of the freeholders of the county, who poſſeſſed an equal vote in the deciſion of cauſes.

The better to guide the magiſtrates in the adminiſtration of juſtice, Alfred framed a body of laws; which, though now loſt, ſerved long as the baſis of Engliſh juriſprudence, and is generally deemed the origin of what is denominated the COMMON LAW. He appointed regular meetings of the ſtates of England twice a year in London; a city which he himſelf had repaired and beautified, and which he thus rendered the capital of the kingdom. The ſimilarity of theſe inſtitutions to the cuſtoms of the ancient Germans, to the practice of the other northern conquerors, and to the Saxon laws during the Heptarchy, prevents us from regarding Alfred as the ſole author of this plan of government; and leads us rather to think, that, like a wiſe man, he contented himſelf with reforming, extending, and executing the inſtitutions which he found previouſly eſtabliſhed. But, on the whole, ſuch ſucceſs attended his legiſlation, that every thing bore ſuddenly a new face in England: robberies and iniquities of all kinds

kinds were repreſſed by the puniſhment or reformation of the criminals: and ſo exact was the general police, that Alfred, it is ſaid, hung up, by way of bravado, golden bracelets near the highways; and no man dared to touch them. Yet, amidſt theſe rigours of juſtice, this great prince preſerved the moſt ſacred regard to the liberty of his people; and it is a memorable ſentiment preſerved in his will, that it was juſt the Engliſh ſhould for ever remain as free as their own thoughts.

As good morals and knowledge are almoſt inſeparable in every age, though not in every individual; the care of Alfred for the encouragement of learning among his ſubjects, was another uſeful branch of his legiſlation, and tended to reclaim the Engliſh from their former diſſolute and ferocious manners.

He complained, that on his acceſſion he knew not one perſon, ſouth of the Thames, who could ſo much as interpret the Latin ſervice; and very few in the northern parts, who had even reached that pitch of erudition. But this prince invited over the moſt celebrated ſcholars from all parts of Europe; he eſtabliſhed ſchools every where for the inſtruction of his people; he founded, or at leaſt greatly improved, the univerſity of Oxford, and endowed it with many privileges, revenues, and immunities; he enjoined by law all free-

holders

holders poſſeſſed of two hydes* of land, or more, to ſend their children to ſchool for their inſtruction; he gave preferment both in church and ſtate to ſuch only as had made ſome proficiency in knowledge: and by all theſe expedients he had the ſatisfaction, before his death, to ſee a great change in the face of affairs; and in a work of his, which is ſtill extant, he congratulates himſelf on the progreſs which learning, under his patronage, had already made in England.

But the moſt effectual expedient employed by Alfred for the encouragement of learning, was his own example, and the conſtant aſſiduity with which, notwithſtanding the multiplicity and urgency of his affairs, he employed himſelf in the purſuits of knowledge. He uſually divided his time into three equal portions: one was employed in ſleep, and the refection of his body by diet and exerciſe; another in the diſpatch of buſineſs; a third in ſtudy and devotion. By ſuch a regular diſtribution of his time, though he often laboured under great bodily infirmities, this martial hero, who fought in perſon fifty-ſix battles by ſea and land, was able, during a life of no extraordinary length, to acquire more knowledge, and

* A hyde of land was as much as one plough could cultivate in a year. Gervaſe of Tilbury ſays, it commonly contained about 100 acres.

even to compoſe more books, than moſt ſtudious men have, in more fortunate ages, made the object of their uninterrupted induſtry.

He introduced and encouraged manufactures of all kinds, and ſet apart a ſeventh portion of his own revenue for maintaining a number of workmen, whom he conſtantly employed in rebuilding the ruined cities, caſtles, palaces, and monaſteries. Both living and dead, Alfred was regarded by foreigners, no leſs than by his own ſubjects, as the greateſt prince after Charlemagne that had appeared in Europe during ſeveral ages, and as one of the wiſeſt and beſt that ever adorned the annals of any nation.

He died in 900, or 901, after a glorious reign of twenty-nine years. Happy will it be for thoſe who imitate his virtues; and proud ought England to be of ſuch a national boaſt!

"England, that ſon of glory, ALFRED, thine!
In whom the ſplendour of heroic war,
And more heroic peace, when govern'd well,
Combine; whoſe hallow'd name the Virtues ſaint,
And his own Muſes love; the beſt of kings!"

THOMSON.

LORD

LORD ANSON.

GEORGE ANSON, whoſe great merit as a naval officer raiſed him to the dignity of a peer of Great Britain, was the third ſon of William Anſon, Eſq. of Shugborough, in Staffordſhire.

He was born April 23, 1697, and very early devoted himſelf to the ſea ſervice; he was made maſter and commander of the Weazel ſloop in 1722; and, the year following, had the rank of poſt captain, and commanded the Scarborough man of war.—On the breaking out of the Spaniſh war in 1740, he was recommended to his late Majeſty, George II. for the command of a ſquadron deſtined to annoy the enemy in the South Seas; and, by an unfrequented navigation, to attack them with vigour in their remoteſt ſettlements.

Mr. Anſon ſailed from St. Helen's on the 18th of September, 1740, in the Centurion of ſixty guns, with the Glouceſter and Severn of fifty each, the Pearl of forty, the Wager ſtoreſhip, and the Trial ſloop.

He kept, for eight months, the whole coaſt of Peru and Mexico in continual alarm, made ſeveral prizes, took and plun-

plundered the town of Peyta, and, by his humane behaviour to his priſoners, impreſſed on their minds a laſting idea of Britiſh generoſity.

In this expedition he met with many and ſerious calamities; but his great mind ſurmounted all difficulties; and at length, with the Centurion only, he traverſed the vaſt extent of the Pacific Ocean, a three months voyage; in the courſe of which, his numbers were ſo much farther reduced by ſickneſs, that it was with the utmoſt difficulty he reached the iſland of Tinian, one of the Ladrones; a place which, according to the following deſcription, muſt be peculiarly inviting:

"The ſoil is every where dry and healthy, and ſomewhat ſandy, which being leſs diſpoſed than other ſoils to a rank and over-luxuriant vegetation, occaſions the meadows and the bottoms of the woods to be much neater and ſmoother than is cuſtomary in hot climates. The land riſes, by an eaſy ſlope, from the very beach, where he watered, to the middle of the iſland; though the general courſe of its aſcent is often interrupted and traverſed by gentle deſcents and vallies; and the inequalities, that are formed by the different combinations of theſe gradual ſwellings of the ground, are moſt beautifully diverſified by large lawns, which are covered with a very fine tres-foil, intermixed

mixed with a variety of flowers, and are ſkirted by woods of tall and well-ſpread trees, moſt of them celebrated either for their aſpect or their fruit.

" The fortunate animals too, which, for the greateſt part of the year, are the ſole lords of this happy ſoil, partake, in ſome meaſure, of the romantic caſt of the iſland, and are no ſmall addition to its wonderful ſcenery: for the cattle, of which it is not uncommon to ſee herds of ſome thouſands feeding together in a large meadow, are certainly the moſt remarkable in the world, for they are all of them milk-white, except their ears, which are generally black; and, though there are no inhabitants here, yet the clamour and frequent parading of domeſtic poultry, which range the woods in great numbers, perpetually excite the ideas of the neighbourhood of farms and villages, and greatly contribute to the beauty and cheerfulneſs of the place.

" The cattle on the iſland we computed were at leaſt ten thouſand; and we had no difficulty in getting near them, as they were not ſhy of us. Our firſt method of killing them was ſhooting them; but at laſt, when, by accidents, we were obliged to huſband our ammunition, our men ran them down with eaſe. Their fleſh was extremely well taſted, and was believed by us to be much more eaſily digeſted than any we had ever met with.

" We

"We found here a kind of fruit peculiar to theſe iſlands, called by the Indians rima, but by us the bread-fruit; for it was conſtantly eaten by us during our ſtay upon the iſland, inſtead of bread, and ſo univerſally preferred to it, that no ſhip's bread was expended during that whole interval.

"It grew upon a tree which was ſomewhat lofty, and which, towards the top, divides into large and ſpreading branches. The leaves of this tree are of a remarkable deep green, are notched about the edges, and are generally from a foot to eighteen inches in length. The fruit itſelf grows indifferently on all parts of the branches; it is in ſhape rather elliptical than round, is covered with a round rind, and is uſually ſeven or eight inches long; each of them grows ſingly, and not in cluſters.

"Having mentioned the conveniences, or we may add bleſſings of this place, I muſt now obſerve, that all theſe advantages were greatly enhanced by the healthineſs of its climate, by the almoſt conſtant breezes which prevail there, and by the frequent ſhowers which fall, and which, though of a very ſhort and almoſt momentary duration, are extremely grateful and refreſhing."

It was the middle of the month of October, 1742, before the commodore was in a condition to put to ſea again; and on

on the 12th of November, after a great variety of adventures, he arrived at Macao, which is a Portugueſe ſettlement, ſituated in an iſland at the entrance of the river of Canton, but entirely under the government of the Chineſe.

On the laſt day of May, 1743, the Centurion arrived off Cape Eſpiritu Santo, on the iſland of Samal, in the direct track by which the Manilla ſhips return from Acapulco, one of which ſhe captured after a ſmart engagement, in which the Noſtra Senhora de Cabadonga had 67 killed and 84 wounded.

He returned with his rich prize to Canton, where he put the treaſure on board the Centurion, ſold the Spaniſh hulk, and ſet ſail for England.

Soon after his return he was made a rear-admiral of the blue, and one of the lords of the admiralty. In April, 1745, he was made a rear-admiral of the white; and in July, 1746, vice-admiral of the blue. He was alſo choſen member of parliament for Heydon, in Yorkſhire.

On the 3d of May, 1747, with fourteen ſhips under his command, he intercepted, off Cape Finiſterre, a conſiderable fleet, bound from France to the Eaſt and Weſt Indies—took ſix men of war, and four Eaſt Indiamen, not one of the enemy's veſſels of war eſcaping.

For this, and repeated ſervices, his Majeſty King George II. rewarded him with

with a peerage, on the 13th of June, by the title of Lord Anſon, baron of Soberton, in Hants.

On the 15th of July, in the ſame year, he was appointed vice-admiral of the red; and on the death of Sir John Norris, he was made vice-admiral of Great Britain.

The laſt ſervice his lordſhip performed at ſea was the convoying to England our preſent queen; for which purpoſe he ſailed from Harwich in the Charlotte yacht, on the 7th of Auguſt, 1761; and that day month, after a long and tempeſtuous voyage, landed the princeſs at the ſame place.

The Account of Lord Anſon's Voyage round the World is a work too well known to require more than barely to mention it.

His Lordſhip died June 6, 1762, at his ſeat at Moor Park, Herts, where there is a handſome pillar erected to record his memory.

ROGER ASCHAM.

ROGER ASCHAM was the ſon of John Aſcham, ſteward to the ancient family of Scroop. He was born at Kirby-Wiſke, in

in Yorkſhire, about the year 1515; and in his early youth he was taken into the family of the Wingfields, by Sir Anthony Wingfield, who became his patron, allowed him to ſtudy under a private tutor with his own ſons, and finding in him an apt diſpoſition for literary attainments, ſent him about 1530 to St. John's college, Cambridge, at the critical juncture when the Greek language began to be taught without oppoſition in our univerſities.

Our young ſtudent being one of thoſe whoſe mind was fired with generous emulation, he applied himſelf ſo aſſiduouſly to this branch of learning, that he ſoon became ſo great a proficient, as to be able to read lectures, and to teach other youth, who were deſirous of inſtruction.

"To teach, or to learn, was at this æra the buſineſs and the pleaſure of the academical life;" and young Aſcham had the happineſs to aſſociate with men of uncommon genius, and of ſimilar diſpoſitions with himſelf. Sir John Cheke, who was preceptor to Edward VI. and died in the reign of Mary, of grief, at having recanted his profeſſion of the reformed religion, was his rival and friend. This gentleman, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Smith, ſecretary of ſtate in the reigns of Edward VI. and Elizabeth, had introduced a more juſt pronunciation of the Greek tongue than had before prevailed,

vailed, which Aſcham at firſt oppoſed, till being convinced that they were in the right, he finally adopted and recommended it in his public lectures; a circumſtance which ſerved to ſtrengthen the ſocial intimacy that had ſubſiſted between the three ſtudents. Mr. Aſcham likewiſe gained the approbation of Dr. Metcalf, the maſter of his college, who, having the intereſt of learning greatly at heart, recommended him to a fellowſhip in March, 1534, when he was but eighteen years of age.

At the ſame time, Pember, a perſon of great eminence in the univerſity, and a zealous promoter of the ſtudy of the Greek language, took him under his protection, and increaſed his reputation, not only by applauding his public lectures, but by recommending the young gentlemen of his acquaintance to attend Mr. Aſcham at his chambers, to hear the Greek authors read and explained by him.

In 1536 he was inaugurated maſter of arts, and ſoon after he was appointed, by the univerſity, teacher of the Greek language in the public ſchools, for which he had a genteel ſalary. He likewiſe commenced tutor, and had ſeveral young ſtudents of rank under his care for other branches of education; ſome of whom proved eminent ſcholars, particularly William Grindal, recommended by Sir John

Cheke to be maſter of languages to the princeſs Elizabeth.

The reputation of Mr. Aſcham, as a man of extenſive learning, was ſo firmly eſtabliſhed in the univerſity, that he was elected to the honourable office of public orator, and all the univerſity letters were compoſed by him; his ſkill in the Latin language, and his fine writing, which he uſed to embelliſh with drawings, having recommended him to theſe employments.

He was particularly attached to archery, and compoſed a ſmall treatiſe, entitled *Toxophilus*, which he publiſhed in 1544. This he dedicated to Henry VIII. who was ſo well pleaſed with it, that he allowed him an annual penſion of ten pounds; a ſum which has been ſuppoſed to be equal to one hundred pounds at preſent. With this penſion, which was doubled by Queen Mary, and his other appointments in the univerſity, it appears he had a very comfortable income, beſides gratuities for teaching perſons of the firſt diſtinction to write, particularly prince Edward, the princeſs Elizabeth, and the two brothers, Henry and Charles Brandon, dukes of Suffolk.

Upon the acceſſion of Edward VI. Mr. Aſcham's penſion was renewed, and he was deſired to continue at Cambridge, to promote the cauſe of the Reformation, in conjunction with his learned friend Bucer,

the celebrated German divine, who had been invited over by the univerſity, to fill the chair of divinity profeſſor. But the death of Grindal brought him to court, to attend the princeſs Elizabeth, whoſe ſtudies he directed for two years, by her own appointment; and, in this time, ſhe acquired a conſiderable knowledge of the beſt Greek and Latin authors, by reading them familiarly with Mr. Aſcham. This pleaſing taſk performed, he returned to his former ſtation at the univerſity; and in 1550, being upon a viſit in Yorkſhire, he received intelligence that he was appointed ſecretary to Sir Richard Moryſine, who was preparing to ſet out on an embaſſy to Charles V. emperor of Germany. This promotion obliged him to proceed directly to London: but in his journey he viſited Lady Jane Grey, at her father's houſe at Broadgate in Leiceſterſhire. He found her reading the Phædo of Plato in Greek; and diſcovered ſuch an uncommon ſhare of learning and good ſenſe in her converſation, that he mentions her in his works, as the wonder of her ſex.

Mr. Aſcham attended the ambaſſador to Germany, and remained with him three years.

While he was there employed, his friends at home procured for him the poſt of Latin ſecretary to king Edward; but before he could return to take poſſeſſion of his new dignity,

dignity, he received the melancholy news of the death of his royal maſter, by which fatal event he not only loſt his place and his penſion, but ſeemed to have loſt every proſpect of future preferment. However, contrary to his expectations, being protected by Lord Paget, he was raiſed to the ſame poſt under Queen Mary; and ſuch was his diligence and diſpatch, that it is ſaid, he compoſed and tranſcribed, in three days, no leſs than forty-ſeven Latin letters to princes and other foreigners of diſtinction, particularly to the cardinals, on the ſubject of electing Cardinal Pole to the Papal chair. He was greatly careſſed by the cardinal on account of his literary talents; and though Pole was himſelf particularly eminent for his ſkill in Latin, he yet thought ſo highly of Aſcham's ſtyle, that he employed him to tranſlate into Latin the ſpeech which he made to the parliament when he reconciled the kingdom to the ſee of Rome; and our author's tranſlation was ſent to Rome, where it was greatly admired, for the purity of the diction.

Upon the acceſſion of Elizabeth, his royal pupil, he was ſent for to court, continued in his ſtation of Latin ſecretary, and allowed the ſame ſalary as in the late reign, which was twenty pounds *per annum*; and though he was admitted to a degree of familiarity with the Queen,

ſometimes aſſiſting her in her private ſtudies, and at others partaking of her diverſions, ſhe never made any addition to his fortune, except a prebend in the cathedral of York, which was beſtowed on him in 1559.

It is related by his biographers, that being one day in company with perſons of diſtinction, there happened to be high diſputes about the different modes of education, which gave riſe to his celebrated treatiſe, entitled, The School-maſter. This he undertook at the requeſt of Sir Richard Sackville; but it was not publiſhed till after his death, which happened on the 30th of Dec. 1568. He was interred in St. Sepulchre's church, London. Queen Elizabeth is reported to have ſaid, that ſhe had rather have loſt 10,000*l.* than her tutor Aſcham. His character has been drawn by Buchanan in a ſhort epigram, of which the following is a tranſlation:

"With thine, the Greek and Latin muſes join,
O Britain! to lament at ASCHAM's ſhrine:
To princes dear, delightful to his friends,
He liv'd on little, yet to mighty ends."

FRANCIS BACON, LORD VERULAM.

FRANCIS BACON has ever been diſtinguiſhed as one of the greateſt men this or any other country ever produced. His

His various abilities and amiable character rendered him worthy of the admiration of his contemporaries, and his immortal works are a valuable legacy to his country.

He was born at York-houſe, in the Strand, London, on the 22d of January, 1561; and his extraordinary genius manifeſted itſelf ſo early, that Queen Elizabeth herſelf, while he was but a boy, took a particular delight in trying him with queſtions; and was wont to call him in mirth, "her young lord-keeper." Among other ſmart replies, her Majeſty having one day aſked him how old he was, he anſwered readily, "Juſt two years younger than your Majeſty's happy reign."

His proficiency in learning was ſo rapid, that in the thirteenth year of his age he was entered a ſtudent of Trinity college, Cambridge; and went through the whole circle of ſtudies there by the time he was ſixteen; when his father ſent him to Paris, and recommended him to Sir Amias Powlet, then the Queen's ambaſſador in France; whoſe eſteem and confidence he ſo entirely gained, that he was ſoon after entruſted by him with a ſecret commiſſion to the Queen, which he executed to the great ſatisfaction of her Majeſty and the ambaſſador, and then returned to France to finiſh his travels.

Whilſt abroad he did not ſpend his time,

as our young gentlemen too frequently do, in learning the vices and follies of foreigners, but in ſtudying their conſtitution of government, their manners and cuſtoms, and the characters and views of their princes and miniſters; and, in the nineteenth year of his age, he wrote a paper of obſervations on the then general ſtate of Europe, which is ſtill extant among his works.

On the death of his father, we find that he entered himſelf of Gray's Inn, and ſoon became ſo eminent in the ſtudy of the law, that, at the age of twenty-ſeven, he was appointed by Queen Elizabeth her learned counſel extraordinary.

About 1596 he wrote his Maxims of the Law; now ſtyled the Elements of the Common Law of England. In 1597 he publiſhed his Eſſays, Civil and Moral; a work which inſtructs men in the moſt uſeful principles of wiſdom and prudence, and which has been pronounced by Dr. Knox, "an invaluable treaſure."

His anxiety (on account of his ſcanty circumſtances, being increaſed by a failure of his expectation of preferment at court) had a very bad effect upon his conſtitution, which was not naturally robuſt, and had been greatly impaired by his cloſe application to his ſtudies by night. In 1603 he received the honour of knighthood from King James.

In

In 1607 we find him appointed ſolicitor-general. Sir Francis Bacon, from the date of his entering upon this office, may be conſidered as a profeſſed courtier, and as a ſervant ſtrongly attached to his maſter, whoſe views he conſtantly promoted, contrary to his better judgment, and to that ſpirit of true patriotiſm, which his country had a right to ſee exerted, by a man of his talents, in the cauſe of civil liberty.

In 1611 he was appointed a judge of the Marſhal's Court, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Vavaſor; and in 1613, upon the promotion of Sir Henry Hobart to be chief-juſtice of the Common Pleas, Sir Francis Bacon ſucceeded him in the office of attorney-general.

To his great honour, it may be remarked, while he held this office, he exerted all his efforts to ſuppreſs the vile cuſtom of duelling. And, upon an information exhibited in the ſtar-chamber againſt Prieſt and Wright, he delivered ſo excellent a charge to the court againſt duels, that the lords of the council, contrary to their uſual practice, ordered it to be printed and publiſhed, with the decree of the court on the cauſe.

In 1617 he was made lord chancellor; in 1618, lord high chancellor of England; and created baron of Verulam, in the county of Hertford; by which title he is chiefly

diſtinguiſhed in the learned world, rather than by the more honourable one of viſcount St. Alban's, to which he was advanced in 1620.

It appears evident, that philoſophy was his ruling paſſion; for, amidſt all the variety and intricacy of buſineſs in which he was neceſſarily involved as a lawyer and a ſtateſman, he found time to compoſe and to publiſh, in 1620, the beſt finiſhed, and moſt important, though the leaſt read, of all his philoſophical tracts, the *Novum Organum Scientiarum*. This piece is calculated to promote a more perfect method of exerciſing our rational faculties, than that before taught in the ſchools, by exerciſing the human mind in contemplations on the works of nature and art, and employing it on nobler ſubjects than abſtruſe ſcholaſtic ſpeculations, which ſerve only to involve learned men in frivolous controverſies and idle diſputations.

Lord Verulam had now attained the full gratification of his wiſhes. He had triumphed over his competitors at court, and was the ſubject of general admiration in the learned world: but, alas! how ſhort-lived do we often find human greatneſs! The very next year, King James was forced to call a parliament; and, as the nation was diſſatisfied with the Marquis of Buckingham and the chancellor, the

the houſe of commons ſet on foot a ſtrict ſcrutiny into their conduct; in conſequence of which Bacon was impeached by the houſe of commons of corrupt practices, in cauſes depending before him, as chief judge in equity. We afterwards find, upon his own confeſſion, he was ſentenced to pay a fine of forty thouſand pounds; to be impriſoned in the Tower during the king's pleaſure; to be for ever incapable of any office, place, or employment, in the ſtate; and never to ſit again in parliament, or come within the verge of the court.

The king ſoon releaſed him from the Tower, made a grant of his fine to ſome truſtees for his benefit, and ſettled upon him a penſion of one thouſand eight hundred pounds a year, out of the broad ſeal and alienation offices. He likewiſe, in a very ſhort time, granted him a full and entire pardon of his whole ſentence; but he did not live long to enjoy theſe favours; for, as he was making a little excurſion into the country in order to try ſome experiments in natural philoſophy, he was ſuddenly taken ill, and, being carried to the Earl of Arundel's houſe at Highgate, he expired, after a week's illneſs, on the 9th of April, 1626.

Various are the characters given by different writers of this celebrated man. By ſome, his faults are extenuated; and by

others, highly aggravated. But all acknowledge, that his great and extraordinary abilities rendered him one of the greateſt ornaments of his age and country.

Dr. Knox conſiders him as the moſt extenſive and improved genius we have had any inſtance of, in our own nation, or in any other; as one, who by an extraordinary force of nature, compaſs of thought, and indefatigable ſtudy, had amaſſed to himſelf ſuch ſtores of knowledge, as we cannot look upon without amazement. The following character was placed over his tomb:

FRANCIS BACON,
Baron of Verulam, Viſcount St. Alban's,
Or by more conſpicuous titles,
Of Sciences the Light, of Eloquence the Law,
Who, after all natural wiſdom,
And ſecrets of civil life, he had unfolded,
Nature's law fulfilled,
Let compounds be diſſolved.

His failings, ſays the learned Dr. Birch, did hurt only to his contemporaries, and were expiated by his ſufferings: but his virtue and knowledge, and, above all, his zeal for mankind, will be felt while there are men; and conſequently, while they have gratitude, the name of Bacon, Verulam, or St. Alban's, can never be mentioned but with admiration.

WIL-

WILLIAM BECKFORD.

WHEN men diſtinguiſh themſelves by noble and generous acts, we cannot too much admire or reverence their characters. Hence too, we may hope, that by preſerving their memoirs we leave the beſt legacy we can to individuals and to ſociety.

WILLIAM BECKFORD was a patriotic chief magiſtrate of the city of London, who died in that office, with which he had been for the ſecond time inveſted, June 21, 1770, aged 65. With an unſhaken intrepidity he oppoſed the machinations of a profligate miniſtry. He ſhowed himſelf the ſtedfaſt friend of his king and country, and was the only man of his time who with firmneſs and humility dared to tell a king upon his throne (ſurrounded by flatterers) the plain and honeſt truth; whereby he vindicated the loyalty, while he evinced the independent ſpirit of the city of London. Convinced that our liberties belong to poſterity as well as to ourſelves, he reſolved that the ſhare committed to his truſt ſhould not expire in his hands. As a citizen, he was eminently decorated with the virtues of humanity and affability; as a ſenator, he was watchful over the rights of the people; and as a magiſtrate,

unremittingly active in seeing those rights legally executed. That his character might ever be held in the most honourable and grateful remembrance, the corporation of London erected his statue in their Guildhall, and recorded in the inscription the magnanimous speech which he addressed to the king, in vindication of the people's right to remonstrate to the throne, which we have transcribed for the gratification of our readers:

"MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

"Will your Majesty be pleased so far to condescend, as to permit the mayor of your loyal city of London to declare in your royal presence, on behalf of his fellow-citizens, how much the bare apprehension of your Majesty's displeasure would at all times affect their minds: the declaration of that displeasure has already filled them with inexpressible anxiety, and with the deepest affliction.

"Permit me, Sire, to assure your Majesty, that your Majesty has not in all your dominions, any subjects more faithful, more dutiful, or more affectionate, to your Majesty's person and family; or more ready to sacrifice their lives and fortunes, in the maintenance of the true honour and dignity of your crown.

"We do, therefore, with the greatest humility and submission, most earnestly suppli-

ſupplicate your Majeſty, that you will not diſmiſs us from your preſence, without expreſſing a more favourable opinion of your faithful citizens, and without ſome comfort, without ſome proſpect, at leaſt, of redreſs.

"Permit me, Sire, further to obſerve, that whoever has already dared, or ſhall hereafter endeavour, by falſe inſinuations and ſuggeſtions, to alienate your Majeſty's affections from your loyal ſubjects in general, and from the city of London in particular, and to withdraw your confidence to, and regard for, your people, *is an enemy to your Majeſty's perſon and family*, a violator of the public peace, and a betrayer of our happy conſtitution, as it was eſtabliſhed at the glorious and neceſſary revolution!"

Moſt public perſonages have had ſome ſhades in their characters, which the finger of envy or malice has occaſionally marked; but in whatever point of view alderman Beckford is conſidered, he riſes to our admiration, the perfect finiſhed character, worthy the imitation of honourable citizens, as it is only from ſuch rare inſtances of true patriotiſm that, as a free people, we have obtained what we enjoy; and while the example ſhould teach us how to regard our rights and liberties, may it alſo inſpire us with virtue ſufficient to preſerve them, when it may be neceſſary.

SIR

SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE.

THIS celebrated and learned judge was born on the 10th of July, 1723, in Cheapſide. Mr. Charles Blackſtone, a ſilkman and citizen of London, his father, died ſome months before his birth, and his mother before he was twelve years old. The care, therefore, of his education and fortune was kindly undertaken by his maternal uncle, Mr. Thomas Bigg, a ſurgeon in London. When he was about ſeven years old, he was put to ſchool at the Charter-houſe, and in 1735 was admitted upon the foundation there. In this ſeminary he applied himſelf to every branch of youthful education, with the ſame aſſiduity which accompanied his ſtudies through life. His talents and induſtry rendered him the favourite of his maſters, who encouraged and aſſiſted him with the utmoſt attention; ſo that at the age of fifteen he was at the head of the ſchool, and, although ſo young, was thought well qualified to be removed to the univerſity. He was accordingly entered a commoner of Pembroke college, in Oxford, on the 30th of November, 1738.

At

At the univerſity he proſecuted his ſtudies with unremitting ardour; and although the claſſics, and particularly the Greek and Roman poets, were his favourites, they did not entirely engroſs his attention. Logic, mathematics, and the other ſciences, were not neglected. From the firſt of theſe he laid the foundation of that cloſe method of reaſoning for which he was ſo remarkable.

Having determined on his future plan of life, and made choice of the law for his profeſſion, he was entered in the Middle Temple on the 20th of November, 1741.

On quitting thoſe ſcenes of his early youth, which affection had endeared to him, he compoſed the following verſes, which he entitled "The Lawyer's Farewell to his Muſe," and which prove him no mean poet:

"As by ſome tyrant's ſtern command,
A wretch forſakes his native land,
In foreign climes condemn'd to roam
An endleſs exile from his home;
Penſive he treads the deſtin'd way;
And dreads to go, nor dares to ſtay;
Till on ſome neighb'ring mountain's brow
He ſtops, and turns his eyes below;
There, melting at the well-known view,
Drops a laſt tear, and bids adieu:
So I, thus doom'd from thee to part,
Gay queen of Fancy and of Art,
Reluctant move, with doubtful mind,
Oft ſtop, and often look behind.

"Com-

"Companion of my tender age,
Serenely gay, and ſweetly ſage,
How blithſome were we wont to rove,
By verdant hill or ſhady grove,
Where fervent bees, with humming voice,
Around the honey'd oak rejoice,
And aged elms with awful bend,
In long cathedral walks extend!
Lull'd by the lapſe of gliding floods,
Cheer'd by the warbling of the woods;
How bleſt my days, my thoughts how free,
In ſweet ſociety with thee!
Then all was joyous, all was young,
And years unheeded roll'd along:
But now the pleaſing dream is o'er,
Theſe ſcenes muſt charm me now no more:
Loſt to the field, and torn from you,—
Farewell!——a long, a laſt adieu."

In November, 1743, he was elected into the ſociety of All Souls college; and on the 12th of June, 1745, commenced bachelor of civil law. In the latter he applied himſelf cloſely to his profeſſion, both in the Hall, and in his private ſtudies; and on the 28th of November, 1746, he was called to the bar.

In 1750 he commenced doctor of civil law, and thereby became a member of the convocation, which enabled him to extend his views beyond the narrow circle of his own ſociety, to the general benefit of the univerſity at large.

It is ſingular, but it may be remarked for the conſolation of others, that a man who has done ſo much for the general benefit of ſociety, as we find he has by his

his celebrated Commentaries or Lectures on the Laws of England, which will ſtand a living monument of his fame, ſhould have made his way ſlowly at the bar, or acquired but little notice, or little practice; and, therefore, after having attended the courts in Weſtminſter-hall for ſeven years, finding the profits of his profeſſion very inadequate to the expenſe, in the ſummer of 1753 he determined to retire to his fellowſhip and an academical life, ſtill continuing the practice of his profeſſion as a provincial counſel.

He had previouſly planned, what he now began to execute, his lectures before noticed, and in the enſuing Michaelmas term he entered on his new province of reading theſe lectures; which, even at their commencement, were attended by a very crowded claſs of young men of the firſt families, characters, and expectations.

In 1758 he was elected Vinerian profeſſor of common law in the univerſity of Oxford; and on the 25th of October, that year, read his firſt introductory lecture. He obſerved in that lecture, that a knowledge of the laws and conſtitution of our country is a "ſpecies of knowledge, in which the gentlemen of England have been more remarkably deficient than thoſe of all Europe beſides."

In

In another place he ſays—"Without detracting from the real merit which abounds in the imperial law, I hope I may have leave to aſſert, that if an Engliſhman muſt be ignorant of either the one or the other, he had better be a ſtranger to the Roman than the Engliſh inſtitutions: for I think it an undeniable poſition, that a competent knowledge of the laws of that ſociety in which we live, is the proper accompliſhment of every gentleman and ſcholar; an highly uſeful, I had almoſt ſaid, eſſential part of liberal and polite education: and in this I am warranted by the example of ancient Rome; where, as Cicero informs us, the very boys were obliged to learn the twelve tables by heart, as a *carmen neceſſarium*, or indiſpenſable leſſon, to imprint on their tender minds an early knowledge of the laws and conſtitutions of their country."

Dr. Blackſtone having eſtabliſhed ſuch a reputation by his lectures, as he juſtly thought might entitle him to ſome particular notice at the bar, in 1759 he bought chambers in the Temple, and reſumed his attendance at Weſtminſter-hall, ſtill continuing to paſs ſome part of the year at Oxford, and to read his lectures there. The ſame year he publiſhed a new edition of the Great Charter, and Charter of the Foreſt.

Foreſt. In 1761 he was elected member of the Houſe of Commons for Hindon, in Wiltſhire.

In 1763 he was appointed ſolicitor-general to the Queen; and was choſen about the ſame time a bencher of the Middle Temple. In 1765 he publiſhed the firſt volume of his Commentaries on the Laws of England; and in the courſe of the four ſucceeding years, the other three volumes, which completed a work by which he obtained great reputation.

Dr. Prieſtley has obſerved, that "every Engliſhman is under obligation to him, for the pains he has taken to render the laws of his country intelligible; and the philoſopher will thank him for rendering the ſtudy of them eaſy and engaging."

About 1770 he was made judge of the Common Pleas, but was no eloquent ſpeaker, from which deficiency he did not make a diſtinguiſhed figure on the bench.

He died February, 1780, and was buried at St. Peter's, at Wallingford, Berks.

SIR THOMAS BODLEY.

WHILST a repoſitory of learning equal to the *Bodleian Library*, calls for a nation's gratitude, its noble founder, Sir Thomas Bodley, will ever be reſpected by the ſcholar, and even by the ſtate itſelf. He was the ſon of an eminent merchant at Exeter, who having early embraced the reformed religion, and being menaced with perſecution on that account, fled with his ſon to Geneva, and remained there during the turbulent reign of Queen Mary.

Upon the acceſſion of Queen Elizabeth they returned home, with the other Proteſtant exiles; and young Bodley, having made a conſiderable progreſs at Geneva in divinity and the learned languages, was ſent by his father to Magdalen college, Oxford. In 1563 he took the degree of bachelor of arts; in 1564 he obtained a fellowſhip in Merton college; in 1566 he took the degree of maſter of arts; in 1569 he was elected one of the proctors of the univerſity; and, for a conſiderable time, during a vacancy, ſupplied the place of univerſity orator.

His

His friends now having in view ſome preferment for him about the court, in 1576 he went abroad, to make the tour of Europe, and perfect himſelf in the modern languages. He continued about four years on the continent, and, upon his return, he applied himſelf to the ſtudy of hiſtory and politics, to qualify himſelf for public employments; and he was very ſoon called upon to exert his talents in ſtations of great dignity and importance.

From gentleman-uſher to Queen Elizabeth, he roſe to be her Majeſty's ambaſſador to the courts of Denmark and France; and her repreſentative in the council of ſtate of the United Provinces in 1588; when he managed the queen's affairs ſo much to the ſatisfaction of the miniſtry at home, that he was continued in this high office till 1597, when all the public negotiations with the ſtates being ſucceſsfully terminated, he was recalled: but, inſtead of meeting with that reward for his eminent ſervices he had a right to expect, he found his own intereſt declining with that of his patron the Earl of Eſſex, and, in a fit of diſguſt, he retired from court, and all public buſineſs; and, though afterwards ſolicited, he never would accept of any new office under the government; but King James, on his ac-

acceſſion, conferred on him the honour of knighthood.

To this retirement from the buſtle of public life, the univerſity of Oxford moſt probably ſtands indebted for the Bodleian library, juſtly eſteemed one of the nobleſt in the world.

The firſt ſtep Sir Thomas Bodley took in this affair, was to write a letter to Dr. Ravis, vice-chancellor of the univerſity, offering to rebuild the decayed fabric of the public library, to improve and augment the ſcanty collection of books contained in it; and to veſt an annual income in the hands of the heads of the univerſity, for the purchaſe of books, and for the ſalaries of ſuch officers as they ſhould think it neceſſary to appoint. A ſuitable anſwer being returned, and this generous offer gratefully accepted, Sir Thomas Bodley immediately ordered the old building to be pulled down, and a new one erected at his own expenſe; which being completed in about two years, he added to the old a new collection of the moſt valuable books then extant, which he had ordered to be purchaſed in foreign countries; and having thus ſet the example, the nobility, the biſhops, and ſeveral private gentlemen, made ſuch conſiderable beneſactions in books, that the room was not large enough

to

to contain them. Upon which, Sir Thomas offered to make conſiderable additions to the building; and on the 19th of July, 1610, he laid the firſt ſtone of the new foundation, being accompanied by the vice-chancellor, doctors, maſters of arts, &c.; and a ſuitable ſpeech was made on the occaſion.

Sir Thomas Bodley did not live to ſee this additional building completed; but he had the ſatisfaction to know that it was intended, as ſoon as that was finiſhed, to enlarge the plan of the whole edifice, and in the end to form a regular quadrangle; and as he knew his own fortune was inadequate to this great work, he made uſe of his intereſt with ſeveral perſons of rank and fortune, and engaged them to make large preſents to the univerſity to forward this undertaking, to which he bequeathed his whole eſtate. He likewiſe drew up ſome excellent ſtatutes for the regulation of the library, which ſeems to have been the laſt act of his life.

He died on the 28th of January, 1612, and was buried in the chapel of Merton college, where a handſome monument was erected to his memory; and a ſtatue was likewiſe put in the library at the expenſe of the Earl of Dorſet, when chancellor of the univerſity.

An annual ſpeech, in praiſe of Sir Thomas Bodley, is ſtill made at Oxford,

on

on the 8th of November, at which time the viſitation of the library is uſually made.

King James I. when he ſaw it in 1605, is ſaid to have expreſſed himſelf in theſe terms—"If I were not a king, I would be an univerſity man; and if it were ſo that I muſt be a priſoner, I would have no other priſon than that library, and be chained together with ſo many good authors."

WILLIAM CAMDEN

WAS one of the moſt learned writers, moſt diligent antiquaries, and moſt impartial hiſtorians, that our country has produced. His indefatigable labour, and love of ſtudy, have rendered his name famous, both to Engliſhmen and others.

He was the ſon of Samſon Camden, of Litchfield, who afterwards ſettled in London, where our author was born in 1551. The rudiments of education he received in Chriſt's hoſpital; but at twelve years of age, having been greatly injured in his health by the plague, he was ſent to Iſlington, for the benefit of the air, where he remained for ſome time in ſo languid a con-

condition, that he was unable to purſue his ſtudies.

Upon his recovery, he went to St. Paul's ſchool, till he was fifteen years of age, and was then removed to Oxford, and admitted a ſervitor in Magdalen college: here he finiſhed his claſſical learning, in the ſchool belonging to the college, under the care of Dr. Thomas Cooper.

Being diſappointed of a demy's place in this college, he removed to Broadgate hall, now Pembroke college, and continued his academical ſtudies upwards of two years, under that able preceptor Dr. Thomas Thornton, who, entertaining ſentiments of eſteem and friendſhip for young Camden, became his firſt patron, and procured his admittance to Chriſt church.

The number of Camden's friends ſoon increaſed, and by their perſuaſion he ſtood candidate for a fellowſhip in All Souls college; but the influence of the Popiſh party prevailing in that ſociety, the election was carried againſt him.

In 1570 he met with a more ſevere mortification, being refuſed the degree of bachelor of arts; but no reaſon is aſſigned for this extraordinary circumſtance.

The antiquities of his own country were objects of his laudable reſearches; and both before and after he left the

univerſity, he made frequent excurſions to the different counties in England, to procure information and materials towards forming thoſe collections, from which he afterwards compoſed his celebrated work, entitled, Britannia.

In 1571 he accepted a preſſing invitation from two worthy divines, Dr. Gabriel Goodman, dean of Weſtminſter, and Dr. Godfrey Goodman, his brother, to ſettle near them in Weſtminſter; and they undertook to ſupply him with books, and every accommodation of life, at their expenſe, till he ſhould meet with preferment ſuitable to his merit.

In 1573 he went to Oxford, and ſtaid there near two years; during which time he is ſuppoſed to have taken his degree of bachelor of arts; and in 1575, by the intereſt of his friend the dean, he was appointed ſecond-maſter of Weſtminſter ſchool, in which ſtation he greatly diſtinguiſhed himſelf, and ſtrengthened his connexions in life. He could now only devote his leiſure hours to his favourite ſtudy, yet he had already made ſuch a progreſs in it, that his reputation as an antiquary daily increaſed, and procured him the eſteem and friendſhip of men of the firſt eminence in the learned world, both at home and abroad.

In compliance with the ſolicitations of reſpectable friends, with unwearied aſſiduity

duity and cloſe application, he collated every hiſtorical or curious anecdote to be found, diſperſed in the works of the ancients, reſpecting the Britiſh iſles. With the ſame attention he examined all the hiſtories of Britain then extant in our language, or written in Latin by our countrymen. He likewiſe purchaſed ſeveral valuable manuſcripts, and ſearched all old records in the public offices. He viſited all the repoſitories of learning in the kingdom, for information concerning the ancient hiſtory of his country; and he inſpected on the ſpot every monument of antiquity which could ſerve to illuſtrate his work.

At length, after ten years of indefatigable induſtry, the firſt edition of his Britannia, in Latin, appeared in 1586. The title in Engliſh is, Britain, or a Chorographical Deſcription of the flouriſhing Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the adjacent Iſlands, from the moſt remote Antiquity.

This elaborate work was dedicated to Lord Burleigh, and the author gratefully acknowledges the kind patronage of that celebrated ſtateſman.

Camden's reputation was now raiſed ſo high, that he was ſtyled, by ſome foreign writers, the Varro, by others the Strabo and Pauſanias of Britain; and theſe encomiums had a happy effect on

the generous mind of our author, inciting him to add every improvement to his performance of which the ſubject would admit.

In 1590 he proceeded to Wales, in company with the learned Dr. Godwin, afterwards biſhop of Hereford; by whoſe aſſiſtance he made many valuable diſcoveries of the antiquities of that country, and inſerted them in the fourth edition of his Britannia, which was publiſhed in the courſe of the year 1594.

Dr. Graunt, the head maſter of Weſtminſter ſchool, dying in 1592, Camden was appointed to ſucceed him.

In 1597, Queen Elizabeth granted him the office of Clarenceux king of arms, on the recommendation of Sir Fulke Greville.

Our learned author's next performance was a Greek grammar, for the uſe of Weſtminſter ſchool, which was the only grammar in uſe in all the public ſchools for above a century after his death.

He afterwards publiſhed A Deſcription of all the Monuments of the Kings, Queens, Nobles, and others, in Weſtminſter Abbey, with their Inſcriptions; together with an hiſtorical Account of the Foundation of that Church.

In 1604 he publiſhed Remains of a greater Work concerning Britain, the Inhabitants thereof, their Languages, Names,

Names, Surnames, Empreſes, wiſe Speeches, Poeſies, and Epitaphs. This curious piece chiefly relates to the habits, manners, and cuſtoms of the ancient Britons and Saxons.

In 1606 we find Mr. Camden, for the firſt time, employed in the ſervice of a royal patron, James I. to draw up a manifeſto reſpecting the Popiſh plot, in Latin, in order to be ſent abroad, and diſperſed by the Britiſh miniſters at foreign courts, ſo as to be circulated to all parts of Europe; our hiſtorian having at this time the reputation of being the moſt elegant and correct Latin writer in England.

This piece was publiſhed in 1607, and does great honour to Camden, not only with reſpect to the ſtyle, but to the maſterly manner in which he has treated the ſubject of the memorial.

In this year he retired for ſome time into the country, to avoid the contagion of the plague, and a new preferment was intended for him by King James, as profeſſor of hiſtory in a college to be founded at Chelſea; but though the ſhell of a building was erected for ſuch a purpoſe, the inſtitution never took place.

Camden, being now grown old and infirm, reſolved to devote part of the fortune he had acquired to the encouragement of that branch of literature for

which he himſelf was ſo eminent. In this view, in 1622, he founded a profeſſorſhip of hiſtory in the univerſity of Oxford, and ſettled a ſalary of 140*l.* per annum on the profeſſor. It ſeemed as if the buſineſs of his life had ended with this inſtitution; for, on the 18th of Auguſt, 1623, as he was ſitting in his chair in his ſtudy, he ſuddenly loſt the uſe of his hands and feet, and fell down upon the floor. He received no apparent hurt from this accident, and he even recovered the uſe of his limbs; but a ſevere fit of illneſs followed, with which he languiſhed till the 9th of November, when he died at his houſe at Chiſlehurſt, in Kent.

His remains were depoſited in Weſtminſter abbey, in the ſouth aiſle. A handſome monument was likewiſe erected to his memory.

Beſides the works already mentioned, he wrote many others; and a large collection of his Latin letters, with ſome ſmall tracts, has been publiſhed by Hearne, from the collections of Dr. Smith.

Spenſer, in his Ruins of Time, thus celebrates our author; and from the pen of ſuch a panegyriſt, "praiſe is fame."

"CAMDEN, the nourice of antiquity,
And lanthorn unto late ſucceeding age;
To ſee the light of ſimple verity,

Bu-

Buried in ruins, through the great outrage
Of her own people, led with warlike rage:
CAMDEN, though time all monuments obſcure,
Yet thy juſt labours ever ſhall endure."

SIR EDWARD COKE,

ONE of the moſt eminent lawyers this country has produced, was ſon to Robert Coke, Eſq. of Mileham, in Norfolk, himſelf a learned profeſſor of the law. At ten years of age he was ſent to the free-ſchool at Norwich, and from thence removed to Trinity college, Cambridge.

He remained at the univerſity about four years, and went from thence to Clifford's Inn, in London; the year after which he was entered a ſtudent of the Inner Temple.

He was called to the bar at ſix years ſtanding, which in that age was held very extraordinary. We are told by himſelf, that the firſt cauſe he moved in the King's-bench was in Trinity term, 1578; when he was counſel for Mr. Edward Denny, in an action of ſcandal, brought againſt him by Henry Lord Cromwell. This was a remarkable cauſe, an account of which may be found in our author's Reports.

About this time he was appointed reader of Lyon's Inn, in which office he continued three years; and his learned lectures were much reſorted to, and applauded. His reputation increaſed very faſt, and he came into great practice.

A ſhort period after, the cities of Coventry and Norwich choſe him their recorder; and he was engaged in all the great cauſes of Weſtminſter Hall. He was alſo in high credit with the Lord-treaſurer Burleigh, and was frequently conſulted in the Queen's affairs.

His large eſtate, and his great credit in his country, as well as at court, recommended him to the freeholders of his county, by whom he was choſen knight of the ſhire; and in the parliament held in the 35th of Elizabeth, he was choſen ſpeaker of the houſe of commons, being at that time the Queen's ſolicitor, which was beſtowed upon him in 1592; and, ſoon after, he was appointed attorney-general.

The affair of moſt importance, in which, as attorney-general, he had a ſhare in the reign of Elizabeth, was the proſecution of the Earl of Eſſex, againſt whom he pleaded with great acrimony.

In May, 1603, he was knighted by King James; and in November, the ſame year, he managed the trial of Sir Walter Raleigh,

Raleigh, at Wincheſter. He inveighed againſt that great and brave man with ſuch bitterneſs and cruelty, as greatly leſſened him in the general opinion of the world.

On the 20th of June, 1606, he was called to the degree of ſerjeant, and on the laſt day of the ſame month he was appointed lord-chief-juſtice of the Common-pleas; on the 25th of October, 1613, made lord-chief-juſtice of the King's-bench; and on the 4th of November was ſworn of his Majeſty's privy council.

Sir Edward Coke's profound ſkill in the common law enabled him to diſcharge the duties of his important ſtation with eminent ability. On the bench he was above corruption; and had this ſaying frequently in his mouth, that a judge ſhould neither give nor take a bribe.

After ſo ſudden and rapid a riſe into favour, it may be ſingular to remark, that a man of Sir Edward Coke's integrity and uprightneſs ſhould loſe the favour of his prince; but ſo it happened, though the pretexts for his removal were ſo frivolous, that he ſuffered no diſgrace from it in the eyes of the people; and if he had ſhown that noble fortitude and ſteadineſs upon the occaſion, which the people had a right to expect from a man of his learning and integrity, he might have ranked in the liſt

of ſuffering patriots, whoſe virtues could not be endured in the palaces of princes.

On the 15th of September, 1617, Sir Edward was reſtored to favour, and reinſtated in his place as a privy counſellor. In 1621 the King called a parliament, of which Sir Edward Coke was choſen a member; and he now diſtinguiſhed himſelf by a noble exertion of his great talents, and of that influence which his age and experience gave him in the houſe of commons, in ſupport of the rights and privileges of parliament, againſt the uſurped miniſterial power of the crown. He ſpoke with great warmth againſt many of the court meaſures. He obſerved, that the rights and privileges of parliament were a part of the conſtitution, ſubſiſting independently of the royal prerogative; that they were, in fact, the rights of the ſubject; and that no proclamation could be of any force againſt an act of parliament: for which declaration he is highly commended by Camden.

In conſequence of this ſpirited behaviour, the Commons began to take the meaſures of adminiſtration into ſerious conſideration, which exceedingly alarmed the King, who, with his uſual jealouſy concerning his prerogative, took great pains to prevent any impreſſions that might be made on the people without doors, by the beha-

behaviour of Sir Edward and others in parliament.

The nation being then in a flame, was juſtly incenſed againſt King James, whoſe proceedings againſt this parliament laid the foundation of his ſon's misfortunes; and he may be ſaid to have plunged the dagger into the boſom of Charles, by the deſperate act of tearing out the proteſtation from the journals of the houſe of commons. For the people now knew what they had to expect from the race of Stuarts, whom they had exalted to the throne of England.

On the death of James, he lived to ſee many ſtruggles between King Charles I. and his parliament, and boldly ſtepped forward the champion of the rights and liberties of the people, againſt the meaſures of that unfortunate prince.

In the ſeſſion of 1628 he did the higheſt ſervice to his country; for he it was, who, laying hold of a meſſage from the king, propoſed and framed the Petition of Rights.

Sir Edward Coke was eſteemed, in his practice at the bar and on the bench, to be one of the ableſt lawyers England ever produced, and he valued himſelf upon deriving his fortune, his reputation, and his preferments, not from ſolicitations, bribery, or adulation, but from his profound knowledge in the law. And he was ſo greatly honoured and beloved by the gentlemen

of the profeſſion, that, when he was proſecuted by the court in the reign of James I. Sir John Walter, though attorney-general to Charles Prince of Wales, and therefore in a manner obliged to it officially, refuſed to plead againſt him, and laid the brief aſide, which had been ſent to him by the court, making uſe of this remarkable ſentence upon the occaſion: "Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, whenever I open it againſt Sir Edward Coke." His reputation as a law-writer is ſo firmly eſtabliſhed in our courts, that his works are conſidered as undeniable authorities, the principal of which are his Reports, in eleven parts: theſe learned and laborious productions, ſays Fuller, will be admired by judicious poſterity, while Fame has a trumpet left her, and any breath to blow therein.

Sir Edward died in 1634, aged 85, at Stoke Pogeis, Bucks; and expired with theſe words in his mouth, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

DRAKE made Britannia miſtreſs of the deep,
And bore her name in thunder round the world.

THIS celebrated navigator, and brave officer, was the ſon of Edmund Drake, a mariner, and was born at a village

village near Taviſtock, in Devonſhire, in the year 1545. He was the eldeſt of twelve children, and the father being diſtreſſed by ſo large a family, Captain Hawkins, his mother's relation, kindly took him under his patronage, and gave him an education ſuitable to the ſea-ſervice. Through the intereſt of his patron, at the age of eighteen, he was made purſer of a ſhip trading to the Bay of Biſcay. At twenty, he made a voyage to Guinea; at the age of twenty-two, he was appointed captain of the Judith; and, in that capacity, he was in the harbour of St. John de Ulloa, in the Gulf of Mexico, where he behaved very gallantly in the glorious action under Sir John Hawkins, and returned with him to England with a riſing reputation, but not worth a groat. Upon this, he conceived a deſign of making repriſals on the King of Spain, and in 1570 made his firſt voyage with two ſhips, the Dragon and the Swan; and the next year in the Swan alone: from which expeditions he returned ſafe, if not rich.

In 1573 he fitted out three frigates at his own expenſe. He ſailed with them to Ireland, where, in the capacity of a volunteer, under Walter Earl of Eſſex, he performed many gallant exploits, and was ſo highly in favour with the Earl, that he recommended him to Sir Chriſtopher Hatton, vice-chamberlain to the Queen, in a letter

letter written but a ſhort time before his death, which ſerved him as an introduction to her Majeſty in 1576, who from this time took him under her own immediate protection. Thus countenanced at court, his fellow-citizens were ſtill more animated to engage in any adventure he ſhould project, and he was enabled to undertake that grand expedition which will immortalize his name. The firſt thing he propoſed was a voyage into the South Seas, through the Streights of Magellan, hitherto unattempted by any Engliſhman. He ardently prayed to God that he might ſail an Engliſh ſhip in them; which now he found an opportunity of attempting.

The ſmall fleet with which he ſailed on this extraordinary enterpriſe, conſiſted of the following ſhips: viz. the Pelican of 100 tons, commanded by himſelf; the Elizabeth, the Marygold, the Swan, a fly-boat, and the Chriſtopher, a pinnace. In this fleet the whole number of hands embarked amounted to no more than 164 able men, with all neceſſary proviſions for ſo long and dangerous a voyage; the intent of which was, however, not publicly declared, but given out to be for Alexandria, though it was generally ſuſpected, and many knew, that it was deſigned for America.

On the 15th of November, 1577, Captain

tain Drake ſailed from Plymouth. On the 25th of the ſame month he fell in with the coaſt of Barbary, and on the 29th, with Cape de Verd; on the 13th of March he paſſed the line; the 5th of April he made the coaſt of Brazil, and entered the River de la Plata, where he miſſed the Swan and the pinnace; but meeting them again, and taking out all their hands and the proviſions they had on board, he turned them adrift. On the 29th of May he entered the port of St. Julian, to take in proviſions.

After he had continued about two months in Port St. Julian, lying within one degree of the Streights of Magellan, to make the neceſſary preparations for paſſing the Streights with ſafety, on a ſudden, having carried the principal perſons engaged in the ſervice to a deſert iſland lying in the bay, he called a court martial, where he opened his commiſſion; by which the Queen granted him the power of life and death, which was delivered to him with this remarkable expreſſion from her own mouth: "We do account that he, Drake, who ſtrikes at thee, does ſtrike at us."

He left St. Julian on the 17th of Auguſt; on the 20th he entered the Streights of Magellan, and after a difficult navigation he paſſed them on the 25th of September, and found himſelf in the great South Seas.

Captain

Captain Drake had now only his own ſhip, which he had new-named the Hind, with which he arrived at Macao on the 25th of November; and from thence ſailing along the coaſts of Chili and Peru, he greatly annoyed the Spaniards, taking and deſtroying ſeveral ſhips. He boldly attempted to find a paſſage by North America, ſailing to the latitude of 48 degrees; but then meeting with ſevere cold, and open ſhores covered with ſnow, he returned back to 38 degrees of latitude, and there put into a harbour in the north part of California, where he was kindly received by the Indian inhabitants, who were ſo highly pleaſed with him, that they offered to make him their king.

To this country Drake gave the name of New-Albion; and erecting a ſtone pillar, he placed an inſcription thereon, with the name, ſtyle, and titles of Queen Elizabeth, denoting his having taken poſſeſſion of the country for his ſovereign; to which were added his own name, and the date of this tranſaction.

On the 13th of October, 1579, he fell in with certain iſlands, inhabited by the moſt barbarous people he had met with in all his voyage. On the 4th of November he had ſight of the Moluccas; and, coming to the iſland of Ternate, was extremely well received by the king of the place, who ſeems to have been a wiſe and

and polite prince. On the 10th of December he made Celebes, where his ſhip unfortunately ran on a rock, whence ſhe was with great difficulty, and beyond all expectation, got off. Thence touching at Java, where he received great civilities from one of the kings of the iſland, he continued his courſe for the Cape of Good Hope, and from thence to Rio Grande, in Negroland; where taking in water, he ſet ſail for England, and arrived ſafe at Plymouth, on the 25th of September, 1580; having ſailed round the globe, in leſs than three years, to the great admiration of the people of thoſe times.

Drake's ſucceſs in this voyage, and the immenſe treaſure he brought home with him, became the general topic of converſation. On the 4th of April, 1581, her Majeſty going to Deptford, went on board his ſhip, where, after dinner, ſhe conferred the honour of knighthood on him, and declared her abſolute approbation of all he had done. She alſo gave directions for the preſervation of his ſhip, that it might remain a monument in honour of himſelf and his country. But this famous veſſel, which for many years had been viewed with admiration at Deptford, being decayed, was at length broken up, and a chair made out of the planks was preſented, by John Davies, Eſq. to the univerſity of Oxford, where it is ſtill preſerved. On this

this occaſion the following lines were written by Cowley, the poet:

"To this great ſhip, which round the world has run,
And match'd in race the chariot of the ſun:
This Pythagorean ſhip (for it may claim
Without preſumption, ſo deſerv'd a name)
By knowledge once, and tranſformation now,
In her new ſhape, this ſacred port allow.
DRAKE and his *ſhip* could not have wiſh'd from fate
An happier ſtation, or more bleſt eſtate:
For lo! a ſeat of endleſs reſt is given
To *her* in Oxford, and to *him* in Heaven."

In the year 1585, Sir Francis, now Admiral Drake, was ſent on an expedition againſt the Spaniſh Weſt India ſettlements, with a fleet of twenty-one ſail; and exceeded the moſt ſanguine expectations of his friends.

Two years after, he proceeded to Liſbon with a fleet of thirty ſail; and, receiving intelligence of a conſiderable fleet aſſembled in the bay of Cadiz, intended to make part of the Spaniſh armada, he bravely entered that port, and burnt upwards of ten thouſand tons of ſhipping. He ſailed after, and took, a large carack from the Eaſt Indies, and brought her home in triumph.

The general applauſe beſtowed on him, when he returned from theſe glorious expeditions, was heightened into grateful admiration, when it was obſerved, what a laudable uſe he made of the wealth he had ac-

acquired from the enemies of his country.

In the year 1588 he was appointed vice-admiral, under Lord Howard of Effingham, high-admiral of England; and made prize of a large Spaniſh galleon, which yielded on the bare mention of his name.

He died near the place where he firſt laid the foundation of his fame and fortune, at the age of 51. His death was lamented by the whole nation, but more eſpecially by thoſe of his native place, who had great reaſon to love him from the circumſtances of his private life, as well as to eſteem him in his public character.

A long poetical hiſtory of Sir Francis Drake, by Charles Fitzgeffrey, was publiſhed in 1596, and thus ſpeaks of our hero:

"Had he been born in Agamemnon's age,
When ſtout Achilles' lance ſcourg'd Troy's proud tow'rs:
When men 'gainſt men, and gods 'gainſt gods did rage;
Æneas', Achilles', nor Ulyſſes' pow'rs
Had been ſo famous in this age of ours:
All poets would have written in *Drake*'s praiſe
Their Æneids, Iliads, and Odyſſeys.
Mark how a civet-ſmelling damaſk roſe,
In laurel-leaved garland quaintly plac'd,
Yields beauty to the bay, where beſt it ſhows,
And neither by the other is defac'd,
But graceth that wherewith itſelf is grac'd:
So each the other ſhould more famous make,
DRAKE *Homer* ſhould adorn, and *Homer* DRAKE."

THOMAS

THOMAS FIRMIN.

PERHAPS the hiſtory of the whole Engliſh nation does not contain a ſingle character more reſpectable, in point of active benevolence, than that of Thomas Firmin, a plain tradeſman of London. He was born in 1632, and was, in the moſt emphatic ſenſe of the phraſe, RICH IN GOOD WORKS. When only an apprentice, he acquired the eſteem of all who knew him, by his fidelity, his induſtry, and his amiable manners. When he began to trade for himſelf, his fortune amounted only to about one hundred pounds. But his induſtry, activity, and excellence of character, enabled him, by degrees, to acquire a conſiderable fortune, which he employed in acts of the moſt extenſive benevolence and humanity. When not engaged in the neceſſary buſineſs of his trade, which he carried on to the end of his life, he was almoſt conſtantly employed in works of kindneſs and beneficence, and which were not confined by him to any ſect, to any party, or to any country. In the fire of London the houſe of Firmin was conſumed, by which his fortune was impaired; but the ardour of his benevolence continued unabated. Not ſatisfied with thoſe acts of beneficence which his own fortune would enable him to perform, he exerted himſelf to excite others to concur with,

with, and to aſſiſt him, in the proſecution of his benevolent deſigns; and as the well-known excellence of his character induced many perſons of opulence to comply with his applications of this kind, he was thereby enabled to become more extenſively uſeful than would otherwiſe have been poſſible. He attended to the moſt minute circumſtances reſpecting the diſtreſſes of the poor, and their various wants. He relieved them to the utmoſt extent of his ability; he entered into an inveſtigation of their different ſituations, and he aſſiſted them by his counſel, as well as by his purſe. He *was a father to the poor, and to them who had none to help them.* He redeemed many poor debtors out of priſon; and many of thoſe who were impriſoned for ſums ſo large, that he could not procure their releaſe, he endeavoured to provide aſſiſtance and accommodation for, during their confinement. Great numbers of boys were placed out as apprentices, to various trades, at his expenſe; and, if they manifeſted diligence and honeſty, he afterwards endeavoured to bring them forward in the world, and to promote their intereſt. He eſtabliſhed manufactories, with a ſole view to the benefit of the poor, for furniſhing thoſe with employment and ſubſiſtence who were in want of them, and for training them up in habits of virtuous induſtry. It was ſaid of him, by one who perſonally knew

knew him, that "he was nimble above moſt men, in apprehenſion, in ſpeech, in judgment, in reſolution, and in action;" and he ſaid of himſelf, that aſſiſting, relieving, and performing kind offices to the poor, was to him "ſuch a pleaſure, as magnificent buildings, pleaſant walks, well-cultivated orchards and gardens, the jollity of muſic and wine, or ſtudy, are to others."

He was a firm believer in Chriſtianity, and he practiſed the virtues which it inculcates; but, in the opinion of ſome, he was deficient in points of orthodoxy; at which Queen Mary, to whom the fame of his benevolence had reached, expreſſed her concern.

It is ſaid of him, that if any man was unjuſtly or illegally oppreſſed, he was ready to defend him as far as he was able.

He was one of the governors of St. Thomas's hoſpital, in Southwark, and was extremely active in his endeavours to promote the intereſts of that charitable inſtitution. He was alſo one of the governors of Chriſt's hoſpital, in London, to which he was a great benefactor, and over which he was a conſtant ſuperintendant. He died in 1697; and, at his own deſire, was buried in the cloiſters of that hoſpital. In an inſcription placed on the wall, near his grave, it is obſerved, that he was "wonderfully zealous in every good work, *beyond the example of any in our age.*"

BEN-

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

IN the life of Benjamin Franklin we have a noble example of what perſeverance and induſtry may attain. Undiſtinguiſhed by birth, he burſt through the barrier of obſcurity, and became the politician, the philoſopher, and the friend of human kind.

Our worthy printer was born at Boſton, in America, 1706, was placed at a very early age under one of his brothers, who was a printer, where he made a rapid progreſs in this art, ſo uſeful to mankind, and contracted an attachment for the preſs, which continued as long as he lived. Scarcely emerged from infancy, Franklin was a philoſopher, without being conſcious of it, and by the continual exerciſe of his genius, prepared himſelf for thoſe great diſcoveries which in ſcience have ſince aſſociated his name with that of Newton, and for thoſe political reflections which have placed him by the ſide of a Solon and a Lycurgus. Soon after his removal from Boſton to Philadelphia, Franklin, in concert with ſome other young men, eſtabliſhed a ſmall club, where every member, after his work was over, brought

his ſtock of ideas, which were ſubmitted to general diſcuſſion. This ſociety, of which the young printer was the ſoul, has been the ſource of every uſeful eſtabliſhment in that province, calculated to promote the progreſs of ſcience, the mechanical arts, and particularly the improvement of the human underſtanding. Higher employments, however, at length called him from his country, which he was deſtined to ſerve more effectually as its agent in England, whither he was ſent in 1757. The ſtamp act, by which the Britiſh miniſter wiſhed to familiarize the Americans to pay taxes to the mother-country, revived that love of liberty which had led their foreſathers to a country at that time a deſert; and the colonies formed a congreſs, the firſt idea of which had been communicated to them by Franklin, at the conferences at Albany in 1754. The war that was juſt terminated, and the exertions made by them to ſupport it, had given them a conviction of their ſtrength: they oppoſed this meaſure, and the miniſter gave way, but reſerved the means of renewing his attempts. Once cautioned, however, they remained on their guard; liberty, cheriſhed by their alarms, took deep root; and the rapid circulation of ideas by means of newſpapers, for the introduction of which they were indebted to the printer of Philadelphia,

united

united them together to reſiſt every freſh enterpriſe. In the year 1766, this printer, called to the bar of the houſe of commons, underwent that famous examination, which placed the name of Franklin as high in politics, as it was before in natural philoſophy.

Every man is acquainted with the particulars of the American war; but every man has not equally reflected on the bold attempt of Franklin as a legiſlator. Having aſſerted their independence, and placed themſelves in the rank of nations; the different colonies, now the United States of America, adopted each its own form of government; and retaining almoſt univerſally their admiration for the Britiſh conſtitution, framed them from the ſame principles variouſly modelled.

Having given laws to his country, Franklin undertook again to ſerve it in Europe; not by repreſentations to the metropolis, or anſwers at the bar of the houſe of commons; but by treaties with France, and ſucceſſively with other powers. From France he returned to America in 1785, and lived five years after this period: for three years he was preſident of the General Aſſembly of Penſylvania; he was a member of the Convention that eſtabliſhed the new form of fœderal government; and his laſt public act was a grand example for thoſe who are employed in the

legiſlation of their country. In this convention he had differed in ſome points from the majority; but when the articles were ultimately decreed, he ſaid to his colleagues, "*We ought to have but one opinion; the good of our country requires that the reſolution be unanimous;*" and he ſigned. He died April 17, 1790.

As an author, he was well ſkilled in reducing uſeful truths to maxims eaſily retained, and ſometimes to proverbs, or little tales, the ſimple and natural graces of which acquire a new value when aſſociated with the name of their author. The moſt voluminous of his works is the hiſtory of his own life, which he commenced for his ſon, and which reached no farther than 1757. He ſpeaks of himſelf as he would have done of another perſon, delineating his thoughts, his actions, and even his errors and faults; he deſcribes the unfolding of his genius and talents with the ſimplicity of a great man who knows how to do juſtice to himſelf, and with the teſtimony of a clear conſcience, void of reproach.

THOMAS

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH.

"Art with no common gifts her GAINSBOROUGH grac'd,
Two different pencils in his hand ſhe plac'd;
'*This* ſhall command,' ſhe ſaid, 'with certain aim,
A perfect ſemblance of the human frame;
This, lightly ſporting on the village-green,
Paint the wild beauties of the rural ſcene."

HAYLEY.

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH, an artiſt of the moſt original genius, and a man of the warmeſt philanthropy, was born at Sudbury in Suffolk, 1727. His father conducted a woollen manufactory at that place, and had ſeveral children, who were remarkable for their ingenuity. His ſon Thomas very early diſcovered a propenſity for drawing. Nature was his teacher, and the woods of Suffolk his academy. There, when a boy, he would paſs whole mornings in ſolitary rambles, ſketching ſome antiquated tree or marſhy brook, with cattle, and any other objects that were accidentally preſented to his view. From delineation, he proceeded to colouring; and after painting landſcapes from the age of ten to twelve, he quitted Sudbury in his thirteenth year, and came to London, where he commenced

portrait-painter; and from that time never put his family to any farther expenſe. In the neighbourhood of his father lived a clergyman of the name of Coyte. With the ſons of this gentleman, young Gainſborough and his brothers had ſpent much of their time, and from the inſtructions of the old man reaped ſome advantage. The parſon's garden having been plundered of a great quantity of wall-fruit, much trouble was taken, but without effect, to diſcover the thief. Young Gainſborough, having riſen one morning at an early hour, to make a drawing of an old elm, ſeated himſelf in an obſcure corner, and had juſt taken out his chalk to begin, when he obſerved a fellow's head peeping over the wall of the garden, with an apparent intention of ſeeing if the coaſt was clear. He made a ſketch, upon a rough board, of the man's face; and ſo accurate was the reſemblance, that he was inſtantly known; and, upon cloſe inquiry, proved to be the fellow who before had robbed the garden.

At the age of nineteen our artiſt married, and reſided for ſome time afterwards at his native place. From thence he removed to Ipſwich, and ſoon after to Bath; where it was conceived his talents would meet a more adequate reward. At Bath, he drew ſuch ſtriking likeneſſes, and introduced ſuch charming back-grounds in his pictures, that he ſoon grew into vogue, and

and raiſed his terms. Sir William Blackſtone, among others, went there almoſt purpoſely to ſit to him; and his patrons now conſidered him "one of the firſt portrait-painters of the age." His mind, however, was moſt in its element when engaged in landſcape; and he frequently paſſed the day in Warley and Claverton woods near Bath, with only a ſandwich, or a luncheon of bread and cheeſe in his pocket. In a letter to a friend, he ſays, "I love wild touches and excurſive nature, and ſnatch every moment from portrait-painting to gratify this humour."

The high reputation which followed Mr. Gainſborough to Bath, prompted his return to London in the year 1774. He had been choſen an academician at the inſtitution of the Royal Academy. His pictures at the annual exhibitions attracted the notice of the King; and he had the honour, at different times, to be employed in painting all the royal family. In conſequence of a diſpute with the committee of arrangement, about placing a picture of the princeſſes, a breach took place between himſelf and the Academy, in 1785; and he exhibited no more. But his profeſſional ardour ſuffered no abatement from this ſeceſſion. His early enthuſiaſm kept pace with his riper attainments; and his regret at loſing life was principally the regret of leaving his art. His death was

occaſioned by a cancer in the neck, which grew internally, ſo large as to obſtruct the paſſages, which made it impracticable to adminiſter aid. In a ſituation thus deſperate, the eſteemed and admired Gainſborough languiſhed; and died, ignorant of the malady which brought him to his end, Auguſt 2d, 1788. A few weeks before his death he wrote ſome directions relative to his funeral, that his family might be as little perplexed as poſſible on ſo diſtreſſing a ſubject: he requeſted to be privately buried in Kew church-yard, and to have a ſtone without either arms or ornament placed over him.

His own works will ſufficiently preſerve him from oblivion: his portraits will paſs to futurity with a reputation equal to that which follows the pictures of Vandyke; and his landſcapes will eſtabliſh his name on the record of the fine arts, with honours ſuch as never before attended a native of this iſle. Sir Joſhua Reynolds did him the juſtice to ſay, that "If ever this nation ſhould produce genius ſufficient to acquire the honourable diſtinction of an Engliſh ſchool of painting, the name of GAINSBOROUGH will be tranſmitted to poſterity among the *very firſt* of that riſing name."

But it was not for the pencil alone that Gainſborough was diſtinguiſhed. His muſical taſte was equal perhaps to that of any one of his contemporaries. He played the violin,

violin, the harp, and the violoncello. But after his acquaintance with Abel, the viol da gamba became his only inſtrument: and he would ſometimes ſeclude himſelf from ſociety for weeks together, for the ſole purpoſe of practiſing it. To that celebrated muſician he was paſſionately attached, and thus expreſſed his feelings to a friend on loſing him:—"Poor Abel died about one o'clock to-day (June 20th, 1787), after three days ſleep, without pain. Your regret, I am ſure, will follow this loſs. We love a genius for what he leaves, and we mourn him for what he takes away. If Abel was not ſo great a man as Handel, it was becauſe caprice had ruined muſic before he took up the pen. For my part, I ſhall never ceaſe looking up to heaven, the little while I have to ſtay behind, in hopes of getting one more glance of the man I loved from the moment I heard him touch the ſtring. Poor Abel!—'tis not a week ſince we were gay together, and that he wrote the ſweeteſt air I have in my collection of his happieſt thoughts. My heart is too full to ſay more."

Our great artiſt was at all times alive to the charities and ſympathies of nature. "*One* leading feature in his character," ſaid the late Mr. Linley, "cannot be coloured too highly; namely, a benevolent and generous heart that knew no bounds, but expanded itſelf on the objects

of his love and friendſhip, as his ſuperior imagination did over the glories of the creation." Nor was his liberality confined to his friends alone. If he ſelected for the exerciſe of his pencil, an infant from a cottage, all the tenants of the humble roof generally participated in the profits of the picture; and ſome of them found in his habitation a permanent abode. The following anecdote of his humanity demands to be recorded. One evening in Bath, when going to the play, he was ſhown, by a gentleman who accompanied him, a letter received from a female, a ſtranger to them both, whoſe friend and ſupport had juſt put an end to his exiſtence in that city. She depicted her misfortune and miſery in a feeling manner. Mr. Gainſborough appeared agitated; inſtead of going to the play, returned home, and ſent his companion the following billet, incloſing a bank note:

"DEAR SIR,

"I could not go to the play till I had relieved my mind by ſending you the incloſed note, which I beg you will tranſmit to the afflicted woman by to-morrow's poſt.

"Your's, &c.

"T. G."

The limits of this publication circumſcribe the preſent account; which muſt there-

therefore be regarded as a faithful miniature, rather than a full-length portrait of this "extraordinary man."

The following ſtanzas were addreſſed to Mr. Gainſborough, by the ingenious Miſs Lee, after having viſited his painting-gallery, in the year 1786:

WHOE'ER the glowing impulſe knows,
By Genius only given,
Will think the pleaſure it beſtows,
The firſt on this ſide heaven.

Th' ALMIGHTY's great prerogative
Thoſe mortals ſeem to ſhare,
Who bid the mind's creation live,
While thouſands own it fair.

O bleſt with talents to adorn!
With *thee* the town we leave,
To watch the dewy break of morn,
Or crimſon bluſh of eve:

To ſee wild nature wake to grace,
And, in each various ſhade,
Find ſentiment in every face,
In every garb pourtray'd.

Yet higher ſtill the feelings blend,
When, turning thence, we view
The form of many a vaniſh'd friend,
So exquiſitely true.

Mute is at once the voice of praiſe;
Yet not the leſs thy claim:
Our *ſilence* moſt thy ſkill diſplays,
And every tear is fame!

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM.

CAMDEN ſays that Thomas Greſham was the deſcendant of an ancient family, who took their name from a town ſo called in Norfolk, and this family had produced ſeveral eminent men in different periods of Britiſh hiſtory; nor was the father of this gentleman, Sir Richard Greſham, of leſs note than his anceſtors. For being fortunate in the buſineſs of a mercer, and enabled to purchaſe conſiderable eſtates, he became ſheriff of London in 1531, and recommended himſelf to Henry VIII. who conferred upon him the honour of knighthood, and made him his principal agent for the negotiation of his mercantile concerns and loans at Antwerp, during his wars with France; and he was afterwards mayor. But Sir Richard is ſtill more memorable as a citizen, for obtaining the privilege for private merchants to be bankers, and to negotiate bills of exchange without applying for a ſpecial licence, which was before required; and as this privilege was firſt exerciſed by merchants reſiding in Lombard-ſtreet, this made that ſituation ſo well known afterwards for this buſineſs; and here it was that

that Sir Richard propoſed to build a bourſe, or exchange: but this honour, however, was reſerved for his ſon Thomas; although he purchaſed the chapel of St. Thomas of Acres, now Mercers' chapel, for that company.

Sir Richard Greſham had two ſons. The youngeſt of them, our famous merchant, was born at London in 1519, and was bound apprentice to a mercer when he was very young; but he certainly did not follow the buſineſs as an apprentice; for we find him paſſing ſome years in his ſtudies at Caius college, under the celebrated founder Dr. Caius, who in commendation of his application and proficiency, ſtyled him *Doctiſſimus Mercator*, the very learned merchant. The profits of trade, however, were then ſo great, and ſuch large eſtates had been raiſed by it in his own family, that he alſo engaged in it, and was made free of the Mercers' company in 1543.

By Mr. Greſham's mercantile knowledge, and ſuperior abilities, the then floating debt of the King, amounting to 260,000*l.* was by him put into a ſtate of liquidation, ſo as to be entirely paid off in a few years. The credit of the crown of England, which before this was conſidered by the Flemiſh merchants as very ſlender, roſe to ſuch a height of reputation, that Mr. Greſham could borrow what ſums he

thought proper, on equitable terms, either on his maſter's, or his own private credit.

The demiſe of King Edward retarded, for a time, the honours due to this great man for his eminent ſervices. When Queen Elizabeth ſucceeded to the crown, he was one of the firſt of her loyal citizens taken into ſavour. She employed him, ſoon after her acceſſion, to buy up, and furniſh the royal arſenals with arms; and the year following, her Majeſty conferred on him the honour of knighthood, and appointed him her agent in foreign parts. Being now in the higheſt eſteem with his fellow-citizens, and in great credit at court, he thought proper to fix his reſidence in the city, and to live there in a manner ſuitable to his rank and fortune. Stow obſerves, "he built that large and ſumptuous houſe for his own dwelling on the weſt ſide of Biſhopſgate-ſtreet," which after the demiſe of his lady, was converted into a college, purſuant to his will, called Greſham college, and has ſince been pulled down to build the New Exciſe Office.

The merchants of London continuing to meet in the open air, expoſed to the inclemencies of the weather, Sir Thomas reſolved to revive his father's plan of building them a commodious bourſe, on the plan of the bourſe at Antwerp. With this view he generouſly propoſed to his fellow-citizens,

citizens, to erect this public edifice at his own expenſe, if the corporation would aſſign over to him a proper ſpot of ground, ſufficiently ſpacious to render it both uſeful and convenient. Such an inſtance of public munificence is but rarely to be met with, and therefore the city moſt readily and gratefully accepted his offer, in conſequence of which they purchaſed eighty houſes in Cornhill, ſituated in the three alleys. This done, the ground-plot was laid out at the expenſe of the city, and poſſeſſion given to Sir Thomas, who in the deed of aſſignment is ſtyled "Agent to the Queen's Highneſs;" and on the 7th of June, 1567, the founder laid the firſt ſtone of the edifice, accompanied by ſome of the aldermen, who laid eight pieces of gold upon the bricks for the workmen; and after this ceremony was over, they ſeemed to vie with each other in expreſſing their gratitude. In November following the roof was covered in.

Hiſtory informs us the plan of this bourſe, or exchange, was an oblong ſquare, with piazzas on the north and ſouth ſides, ſupported by ten pillars of marble on each ſide: and thoſe on the eaſt and weſt ends were ſupported by ſeven pillars on each ſide: under theſe piazzas, ſhops, to the number of 120, were neatly fitted up, which were let by Sir Thomas, on an average, at 4*l.* 10*s.* per annum. Other

ſhops

ſhops were fitted up at firſt in the vaults under ground, but the darkneſs and damp rendered them ſo unwholeſome and inconvenient, that they were very ſoon removed, and the vaults let to ſuitable uſes. Upon four pinnacles at each corner of the roof was placed a graſhopper, the creſt of the arms of the Greſham family. This noble ſtructure was burnt in the great fire of 1666, and the preſent one erected at the joint expenſe of the city and of the Mercers' company. It coſt 80,000*l.* and was finiſhed in the year 1670.

In 1569 Sir Thomas's exchange was entirely completed, and in January, 1570, Queen Elizabeth, attended by her nobility, came from Somerſet-houſe, and paſſing by Temple bar, through Fleet-ſtreet, Cheapſide, and the north ſide of the new bourſe, to Sir Thomas's houſe in Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, dined there, and after dinner, returning through Cornhill, entered the bourſe on the ſouth ſide, and having viewed every part thereof above ground, eſpecially the Pawn (the ranges of ſhops), which was richly furniſhed with all ſorts of the fineſt wares in the city, ſhe cauſed the bourſe, by a trumpet and herald, to be proclaimed the Royal Exchange, and ſo to be called from thenceforth, and not otherwiſe.

Queen Elizabeth, to ſhow her high regard for Sir Thomas Greſham, and that he

he might not loſe the dignity of a public character in the city, put him into the commiſſion with the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, the Biſhop of London, and ſome lords of the council, who, in this reign, were uſually appointed aſſiſtants to the Lord Mayor in the government of the city, during the Queen's ſummer progreſſes through the kingdom. This honour he held as occaſion required, from 1572 to 1578.

The active life of Sir Thomas Greſham would not permit him to be long abſent from the buſtle of the mercantile world; he loved to viſit his favourite exchange, and to aſſociate with merchants: upon which account he would not retire to any of the conſiderable eſtates he had purchaſed in the remoter counties, but built a magnificent ſeat at Oſterley Park, near Brentford, in Middleſex, where his royal Queen did him the honour to viſit him.

Here he indulged himſelf with ſhort intervals of relaxation; but his mind was always ſo full of plans for the public good, and the promotion of uſeful induſtry, that even here he mixed utility with recreation, and made buſineſs part of his amuſement: for within his park he erected paper, oil, and corn mills; thus finding conſtant employment for various ſorts of workmen.

The greater part of the very ample fortune which Sir Thomas Greſham had ac-

acquired by his cloſe application to, and conſummate ſkill in mercantile tranſactions, he now reſolved to devote to the benefit of his fellow-citizens, and their children's children, having no legitimate heir to inherit it after his deceaſe. Accordingly, he made no ſecret of his laudable deſign, to have his manſion-houſe (as it was then called) converted into a college for the profeſſion of the ſeven liberal ſciences, and to endow it with the revenues of the Royal Exchange, after his own and his lady's deceaſe.

London at that time had no ſimilar inſtitution, and the want of liberal education made the principal merchants obſtinate and tenacious of every idle prejudice adopted from cuſtom. Another motive, undoubtedly, was that immortal fame which every public-ſpirited, every good citizen ſhould have in view, whereby, as he was venerated while living, ſo, in after-ages, his memory might be gratefully preſerved in that community of which he was a reſpectable member.

Perſiſting, therefore, in the reſolution of fixing the college in his dwelling-houſe, he executed a deed of ſettlement, dated May 20, 1575.

His worldly concerns being thus adjuſted in a manner that could not but afford him much ſecret ſatisfaction; it is moſt probable that he lived a retired life, enjoy-

enjoying the happy tranquillity which affluence, acquired by honeſt induſtry, and peace of mind, the reſult of pious and benevolent actions, always afford; for no particular memoirs of the four laſt years of his life are handed down to us. All the account we have of him, after the year 1575, is, that on the 29th of November, 1579, this great and good man was taken off by an apoplectic fit.

What a pleaſing and exemplary inſtance does this life afford, of what is in the power of man to perform, uniting talents with induſtry, and with both a virtuous and upright conduct.

SIR MATTHEW HALE.

THIS great ornament to his country was the ſon of Robert Hale, Eſq. of Lincoln's Inn, a gentleman of ſuch ſtrict honour, that he threw up his practice at the bar, becauſe he could not reconcile it to his conſcience.

He was born in 1609. Both his parents died while he was a child, and the care of his education devolved on his guardian, Anthony Kingſcot, Eſq. who put him under the tuition of Mr. Staunton,

ton, vicar of Wotton-under-Edge, till the year 1626, when he was ſent to Magdalen hall, in Oxford, where he became a great proficient in learning.

In 1629 Mr. Hale was entered of Lincoln's Inn, and applied himſelf ſo cloſely to his profeſſion, that it is reported he ſtudied ſixteen hours daily, for many years.

Not ſatisfied with the law-books then extant, he was very diligent in ſearching ancient records; and from theſe, and collections out of the books he had read, he compoſed a moſt valuable common-place book.

He was called to the bar a ſhort time before the open rupture between King Charles I. and his parliament; and at this critical juncture it was extremely difficult for the gentlemen of the robe to act in ſuch a manner as to preſerve independency in their principles. Our young counſellor, however, had read the life of Titus Pomponius Atticus, the celebrated Epicurean philoſopher and Roman orator, who, during the wars of Cæſar and Pompey, and of Anthony and Brutus, conducted himſelf with ſuch addreſs, that he was eſteemed and careſſed by all parties; and Mr. Hale made him the model for his own behaviour, cloſely adhering to the two favourite maxims of the Roman philoſopher—"To engage in no faction, nor meddle

meddle with public affairs:"—"Conſtantly to favour and relieve the oppreſſed."—By his integrity and great abilities in his profeſſion he was conſtantly employed as counſel by both parties; and though he carefully avoided giving offence, he did not want ſpirit and reſolution upon proper occaſions; for, in the defence of Lord Craven, he pleaded with ſuch ſtrength of argument, that the attorney-general threatened him for appearing againſt the government: upon which he boldly replied, "That he was pleading in defence of thoſe laws which the government had declared they would maintain and preſerve, and he was doing his duty to his client; ſo that he was not to be daunted by threatenings."

In 1652 he was one of the able men in the law appointed by the parliament to reviſe and reform the laws of England on the demiſe of Charles I.

In 1659 he was elected one of the burgeſſes for the univerſity of Oxford, in gratitude for the ſervice he had formerly done that learned body. In the Healing Parliament of 1660, which recalled Charles II. he was knight of the ſhire for the county of Glouceſter.

In the ſpace of a month after the King's reſtoration, he was recalled to the degree of a ſergeant at law, by the royal writ, Cromwell's being deemed illegal; and, upon

upon ſettling the courts of Weſtminſter-hall, in November, he was conſtituted chief baron of the exchequer.—When the lord chancellor Clarendon delivered him his commiſſion, he told him, "that if the King could have found an honeſter and fitter man for that employment, he would not have advanced him to it; and that he had therefore preferred him, becauſe he knew none that deſerved it ſo well."

In this ſtation he continued eleven years, and he very much raiſed the reputation and practice of his court, by his impartial adminiſtration of juſtice, his indefatigable diligence, and his great exactneſs in trials.

The King meeting him at the lord chancellor's, the latter obſerved to his Majeſty, "there was his modeſt chief baron;" upon which his Majeſty inſiſted upon making him a knight. It is recorded of this great man, that he manifeſted ſuch an averſion to the very appearance of bribery, as was conſtrued into affectation.

In 1671 our learned and upright judge was promoted to the high office of lord chief juſtice of all England. This promotion gave great ſatisfaction to the people, who highly applauded the King's choice; for they conſidered Sir Matthew Hale, in his capacity of chief juſtice of the

the court of King's-bench, as the guardian of their liberties, and thought they could not be better depoſited than in the hands of a judge, who thoroughly underſtood them, and who poſſeſſed courage and integrity to maintain the ſacred truſt repoſed in him.

But he held this important poſt only four years and a half; for he was ſuddenly attacked with a diſorder in the beginning of the year 1676, which, in two days, reduced him ſo very low, that he found himſelf unable to go through the fatigue of public buſineſs, and therefore ſolicited a writ of eaſe, which being delayed, he reſigned in February, and died in the month of December of the ſame year. He was interred in the church-yard of Alderly.

It may be ſaid, to the immortal honour of Judge Hale, that no man obſerved the rites of the Sabbath better, and few poſſeſſed the ſame zeal for religion as he did. It was remarked by himſelf, that if he had by any means neglected his duty to God on that day, the affairs of the ſucceeding week took not ſo pleaſant a turn as when he had performed it.

The valuable work he has left as a legacy to his country is, The Hiſtory of the Pleas of the Crown, publiſhed in 1736, from his original manuſcript.

JONAS

JONAS HANWAY.

THIS benevolent character was the ſon of Thomas Hanway, an officer: he was born 1712, and put to ſchool in London, where he learned writing and accompts, and made ſome proficiency in Latin. At the age of ſeventeen he went over to Liſbon, where he arrived 1729, and was bound apprentice to a merchant in that city. His early life was marked with that diſcreet attention to buſineſs, and love of order and regularity, which diſtinguiſhed his future character.

On the expiration of his apprenticeſhip he entered into buſineſs at Liſbon, as a merchant or factor, but did not remain long before he returned to England.

From the time of his arrival in London to the year 1743, when he went over with intention to ſettle at Peterſburgh, nothing remarkable occurred to him. He was not indeed in this period, nor in any other part of his life, inactive. As commerce was his profeſſion, he purſued it with an arduous and indefatigable attention, and with the ſtricteſt regard to honour and integrity.

Being appointed agent to the Britiſh factory at Peterſburgh, with a view of opening a trade through Ruſſia into Perſia, in September, 1743, after making the neceſſary diſpoſitions for his journey, he ſet out from Peterſburgh, with an interpreter, who had been before in that part of Perſia into which he was going, a clerk, a Ruſſian menial ſervant, a Tartar boy, and a guard.

The limits of this work will not permit us to give an account of his adventures in Perſia, of which a copious relation is printed in his Travels. From Perſia he returned to Ruſſia, and then paſſed through Germany and Holland, and returned to England in October, 1750, after an abſence of nearly eight years.

In 1753 he publiſhed An Hiſtorical Account of the Britiſh Trade over the Caſpian Sea, with a Journal of Travels from England, through Ruſſia, into Perſia, and back through Ruſſia, Germany, and Holland.

Mr. Hanway publiſhed A Letter to Mr. Spranger, on his excellent Propoſals for paving, cleanſing, and lighting the Streets of Weſtminſter, &c. Acts of parliament were afterwards paſſed for promoting this buſineſs both in London and Weſtminſter; and the undertaking has introduced a degree of elegance and ſym-

ſymmetry into the ſtreets of the metropolis, which make it the admiration of Europe.

He projected the Marine Society for encouraging the breed of ſeamen, and by the moſt unceaſing attention to its intereſt, and the management of its finances, deſerved alſo the title of its guardian.

We find him afterwards becoming the friend of the infant pariſh poor, and next of the Magdalen Hoſpital.

He continued, till towards the cloſe of his life, to employ his time in his official buſineſs, and in ſupporting and promoting the charitable inſtitutions which he had founded, or intereſted himſelf in; but in the ſummer of 1786 his health declined viſibly. He had long felt the approach of an internal diſorder, which increaſing, put a period to a life ſpent almoſt entirely in the ſervice of his fellow-creatures, in 1786.

Mr. Pugh, his biographer, ſays, "His mind was the moſt active that it is poſſible to conceive; always on the wing, and never appearing to be weary. To ſit ſtill, and endeavour to give reſt to the thought, was a luxury to which he was a perfect ſtranger: he dreaded nothing ſo much as inactivity.

"He roſe in the ſummer at four or five, and in the winter at ſeven; and having always buſineſs before him, he was every

every day employed till the time of retiring to reſt.

" In his tranſactions with the world he was open, candid, and ſincere. Whatever he ſaid might be depended on with implicit confidence. He adhered to the ſtrict truth, even in the *manner* of his relation, and no brilliancy of thought could induce him to vary from the fact. He uſed to ſay—' Confidence is the reward of truth and fidelity; and theſe ſhould never be exerted in vain.'

" He knew well how much the happineſs of mankind is dependent on honeſt induſtry, and received a pleaſure, but faintly deſcribed in words, when any of the objects of his charity, cleanly apparelled, and with cheerful and contented countenances, came to pay their reſpects to him.

" He was a firm believer in the great truths of Chriſtianity; and his piety was fervent, rational, and ſincere. Beſides his Travels, and ſeveral miſcellaneous productions, he alſo publiſhed a number of ſmall pieces, calculated to convey uſeful, moral, and religious inſtruction to the lower claſſes of mankind."

A neat monument has been erected to his memory in Weſtminſter abbey.

DR. DAVID HARTLEY.

DR. DAVID HARTLEY was born on the 30th of Auguſt, 1705: he was the ſon of a very worthy and reſpectable clergyman at Armley, in Yorkſhire. He received the firſt rudiments of his education at a private ſchool, and his academical inſtruction at Cambridge. He was admitted of Jeſus college at the age of fifteen, and afterwards elected a fellow of that ſociety. He was originally intended for the church, and proceeded for ſome time in his thoughts and ſtudies towards that object; but, upon a cloſer conſideration of the conditions attached to the clerical profeſſion, he was reſtrained by ſome conſcientious ſcruples.

Though his talents were very general, yet undoubtedly his pre eminent faculties were formed for the moral and religious ſciences. Theſe talents diſplayed themſelves, in the earlieſt parts of life, with ſo much diſtinction, as could not fail to hold out to his ambition a future career of honourable fame, in the ſervice of the national church; if he could have complied with the conditions, conſiſtently with the ſatisfaction of his own mind. But he had

had always a moſt ſcrupulous and diſintereſted mind, which diſpoſed him in every part of his life, and under all circumſtances, to adhere firmly to thoſe principles which appeared to him to form the ſtrict line of moral duty.

In conſequence of this determination, he applied his talents and ſtudies to the medical profeſſion, in which he ſoon became equally and in the firſt degree eminent for ſkill, integrity, and charitable compaſſion. His mind was formed to benevolence and univerſal philanthropy. He exerciſed the healing art with anxious and equal fidelity to the poor and to the rich.

He viſited, with affectionate ſympathy, the humbleſt receſſes of poverty and ſickneſs, as well as the ſtately beds of pampered diſtemper and premature decrepitude. His manners were gentle; his countenance affable; his eloquence moral and pathetic, not harſh or importunate; yet he was not unmindful that bodily ſickneſs ſoftens the mind to moral ſenſibilities, which afforded frequent opportunities to him of exerciſing mental charities to afflicted minds, whilſt he employed the powers of medical ſcience to the reſtoration of bodily health. He thus united all the talents of his own mind for natural and moral ſcience, conformably to that univerſal ſyſtem of final morality which

he inculcates, by which each effort of ſenſation or ſcience in the various gradations of life muſt be eſteemed defective, until it ſhall have attained to its correſponding mental conſummation.

He was induſtrious and indefatigable in the purſuit of all collateral branches of knowledge, and lived in perſonal intimacy with the learned men of his age.

The celebrated Mr. Pope was admired by him, not only as a man of genius, but alſo as a moral poet: yet, as he was a zealous Chriſtian, without guile, he felt ſome jealouſy of the rivalſhip of human philoſophy, and regarded the Eſſay on Man as tending to inſinuate that the divine revelation of the Chriſtian religion was ſuperfluous, in a caſe where human philoſophy was adequate.

He was an admirer and diſciple of Sir Iſaac Newton in every branch of literature and philoſophy, natural and experimental, mathematical, hiſtorical, and religious, which that great man diffuſed throughout the world. He received his firſt principles of logic and metaphyſics from the works of that good and great philoſopher Locke.

He took the firſt rudiments of his work from Sir Iſaac Newton and Mr. Locke: the doctrine of vibrations, as inſtrumental to ſenſation and motion, from the former, and the principle of aſſociation originally from

from the latter, farther explained in a diſſertation by the reverend Mr. Gay, as he himſelf has informed us.

His ingenious work of the Hiſtory of Man was begun when he was 25 years of age; and it remains upon his own authority, as declared by himſelf to his private friends and connexions, that the ſeeds of this work were lying in latent germination for ſome years antecedent even to that early bud, which in the work itſelf has diſplayed, in full maturity, the mechanical, rational, and moral ſyſtem of man, reſpecting his frame, his duty, and his expectations.

Dr. Hartley's work was publiſhed in the year 1749. He kept a general and vigilant attention upon the work, to receive and to conſider any ſubſequent thoughts which might have occurred from his own reflections, or from the ſuggeſtions of others, by which he might have modified or arranged any incongruous or diſcordant parts. But no ſuch alterations or modifications ſeem to have occurred to him.

The learned and ingenious Dr. Prieſtley publiſhed, in the year 1775, ſome parts of Dr. Hartley's works, in an octavo volume. Dr. Prieſtley had commenced a correſpondence with the author a ſhort time before his death, and has, in ſubſequent literary works, commented,

with great acuteneſs and erudition, upon his metaphyſical and moral ſyſtem.

The philoſophical character of Dr. Hartley is delineated in his works. The features of his private and perſonal character were of the ſame complexion.

His thoughts were not immerſed in worldly purſuits or contentions, and, therefore, his life was not eventful or turbulent, but placid, and undiſturbed by paſſion or violent ambition. From his earlieſt youth his mental ambition was pre-occupied by purſuits of ſcience: his hours of amuſement were likewiſe beſtowed upon objects of taſte and ſentiment.

Muſic, poetry, and hiſtory, were his favourite recreations. His imagination was fertile and correct; his language and expreſſion fluent and forcible. His natural temper was gay, cheerful, and ſociable. He was addicted to no vice in any part of his life, neither to pride, nor to ſenſuality, nor intemperance, nor oſtentation, nor envy, nor to any ſordid ſelf-intereſt; but his heart was replete with every contrary virtue. The moral principles which are inſtilled in his works were the invariable and decided principles of his life and conduct.

He was peculiarly neat in his perſon and attire: he was an early riſer, and punctual in the employments of the day; metho-

methodical in the order and diſpoſition of his library, papers, and writings, as the companions of his thoughts, but without any pedantry, either in theſe habits or in any other part of his character. His behaviour was polite, eaſy, and graceful; but that which made his addreſs peculiarly engaging was, the benevolence of heart from which that politeneſs flowed. It is ſaid, he never converſed with a fellow-creature without feeling a wiſh to do him good. He conſidered the moral end of our creation to conſiſt in the performance of the duties of life attached to each particular ſtation, to which all other conſiderations ought to be inferior and ſubordinate. In this he was the faithful diſciple of his own theory, and by the obſervance of it he avoided the tumult of worldly vanities and their diſquietudes, and preſerved his mind in ſerenity and vigour, to perform the duties of life with fidelity and without diſtraction.

He died Auguſt, 1757, at the age of fifty-two years.

REV. JAMES HERVEY, A.M.

MR. HERVEY was the eldeſt ſon of a reſpectable clergyman in the neighbourhood of Northampton, where our author was born, February the 26th, 1713. Here he received his firſt inſtructions from his mother, who taught him to read.

At ſeven years old he was ſent as a day-ſcholar to the free grammar-ſchool at Northampton, where he acquired the rudiments of Greek and Latin.

At this ſchool he laboured in the drudgeries of learning ten years, till he was removed to Oxford. In 1731 he was entered at Lincoln college, where, by the favour of Dr. Iſham, he ſoon obtained an exhibition of 20*l.* per annum, left by the munificence of Biſhop Crewe.

In the year 1733 he formed an acquaintance with ſome fellow-ſtudents who began to be diſtinguiſhed by their ſerioufneſs and application, and became, like them, "diligent in bufineſs, fervent in ſpirit, ſerving the Lord."

He was particularly charmed with the elegant and inſtructive writings of the Abbé Le Pluche, Dr. Derham, and Mr. Ray; and began to copy them, by aſſo-

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ciating religion with every ſubject he contemplated.

Two years after this he left the univerſity, only taking his degree of Bachelor of Arts, though of five years ſtanding. In September, 1736, he received deacon's orders, and accepted the curacy of Dummer, in Hampſhire, where he remained about a twelvemonth. In 1738 he was invited to Stoke Abbey, in Devonſhire.

In 1740 he undertook the curacy of Biddeford, where he continued till the death of his rector; whoſe ſucceſſor diſmiſſed him, notwithſtanding the remonſtrances of his pariſhioners, who loved Mr. Hervey ſo well as to offer to ſupport him at their own expenſe. It was during his reſidence in the weſt of England that he planned his "Meditations."

In February, 1745-6, was publiſhed the firſt volume. The pleaſing manner in which he drew inſtruction from the ſolemn memorials of the dead, and the pious uſe he made of the more agreeable objects of the garden, recommended this work to the taſte of ſerious and pious readers of different denominations; and the ſucceſs of the firſt volume produced a ſecond, on the Night and Starry Heavens. Perhaps nothing more ſtrongly exhibits that heavenly-mindedneſs recommended in the ſcriptures, than an aptitude of ſpiritualizing the natural objects which ſurround

us; and a readineſs to improve common events and incidents, by recurring to, and comparing them with, others of the higheſt importance.

On the death of his father, in 1752, he returned to Weſton, to ſucceed him.

His father, at the time of his death, poſſeſſed two livings; that of Weſton-Favell, which was worth about 100*l.* per annum, and the adjacent one of Collingtree, which produced about 80*l.*: out of their joint produce a curate was to be maintained, and 20*l.* to be deducted for repairs. He was firſt inducted to the former living; and, according to his curate's report, for ſome time ſcrupled to accept the other, from a doubt as to the lawfulneſs of eccleſiaſtical pluralities.

In 1752 he publiſhed his Remarks on Lord Bolingbroke's Letters on the Study and Uſe of Hiſtory; in which, with a conſiderable degree of ſpirit and acumen, we ſee the ſcholar, the gentleman, and the Chriſtian, in every line. It has been the practice of the moſt conſiderable enemies of Chriſtianity not to attack it openly and avowedly, but rather, as it ſhould appear, accidentally, in treating of other ſubjects, as they know the bulwarks of revelation are too ſtrong to ſuffer from their moſt formidable aſſaults.

In 1755 he publiſhed three volumes of Dialogues between Theron and Aſpaſia;

which may be conſidered, in ſome reſpects, as his moſt important work; becauſe they diſcuſſed ſome of the moſt intereſting truths of revelation, and involved our author in controverſy to defend them.

Mr. Hervey himſelf was a man of unexceptionable morals, and maintained the abſolute *neceſſity* of *good works*, not indeed to our juſtification itſelf, but to the evidence of it to ourſelves and others; which appears alſo to be clearly the doctrine of the church of England in her eleventh and twelfth articles.

His laſt publication (excepting a reprint of Mr. Jenks's Meditations) conſiſted of three excellent and practical ſermons, preached upon the faſt-days, and afterwards reprinted with two or three others. Our author's labours were now nearly at an end; his health and ſpirits haſtily declined; and on Sunday, December 3, 1758, he appeared to be arreſted by the hand of death.

On the 20th Dr. Stonhouſe gave his opinion that Mr. Hervey could not ſurvive above three or four days: when diſcourſing on the conſolation of religion, and the unprofitableneſs of riches, the latter ſaid, "True, Doctor, true; the only valuable treaſures are in heaven. What would it avail me now to be Archbiſhop of Canterbury? Diſeaſe would ſhow no reſpect to my mitre. How careful ought we to be to

improve thoſe years which remain, at a time of life when but few can remain, for us!"

He died December, 1758.

The lover of Chriſtianity will always revere the character of Mr. Hervey. His labours, though ſhort on earth, were various and valuable.

The benevolence and generoſity of the *man* could only be exceeded by the piety and devotion of the *Chriſtian*. As a *miniſter*, he exerted himſelf to the utmoſt of his ſtrength, and oftentimes beyond it, in the ſervice of *Chriſt*, and the ſalvation of ſinners. As a *gentleman*, and an *author*, to his other excellencies he added an uncommon degree of urbanity, delicacy, and elegance, ſo as juſtly to merit the following eulogium of an ingenious contemporary:

——"Thou, Hervey, too,
Whoſe page and ſoul alike breathe humbleſt love
To thy ador'd Redeemer; thou haſt ſhown
That piety and poliſh'd elegance
May well together ſuit: and while remains
Or piety, or elegance, thy works,
Like genuine gold, the touchſtone will abide,
And grateful to thy countrymen remain!"

JOHN

JOHN HOWARD.

THIS celebrated philanthropiſt was born at Enfield, in Middleſex, about the year 1724, and put apprentice to Mr. Nathaniel Newnham, a wholeſale grocer in Watling Street. His conſtitution was thought very weak, and his health appeared to have been injured by the neceſſary duties of his apprenticeſhip: at the expiration of it he took an apartment in a lodging-houſe at Stoke Newington, kept by a Mrs. Sarah Lardeau, by whom he was nurſed with the utmoſt care and attention.

About 1755, it is believed, he was elected F. R. S. and, with an intention of viſiting Liſbon, after the earthquake, he, at Midſummer 1756, ſet ſail on board the Hanover packet, which was taken by a French privateer.

He afterwards made the tour of Italy, and at his return ſettled at Brokenhurſt, a retired and pleaſant villa in the New Foreſt, near Lymington, in Hampſhire.

From thence he removed to an eſtate he had purchaſed at Cardington, near Bedford,

ford, where he very much conciliated the eſteem of the poor, by employing them, building cottages for them, &c. In 1773 he ſerved the office of ſheriff of the county of Bedford. This office, as he obſerves, brought "the diſtreſs of priſoners more immediately under his notice;" and, with a view to its alleviation, he began his labours by "viſiting moſt of the county gaols in England," and afterwards "the bridewells, houſes of correction, city and town gaols," where he found "multitudes both of felons and debtors dying of the gaol fever and the ſmall-pox."

Upon this ſubject he was examined in the Houſe of Commons in March, 1774, when "he had the honour of their thanks." This encouraged him to proceed in his deſign: he travelled again and again through Great Britain and Ireland, and alſo into France, Flanders, Holland, Germany, and Switzerland; and publiſhed "The State of the Priſons in England and Wales, with preliminary Obſervations, and an Account of ſome foreign Priſons, 1777," 4to. with a Dedication to the Houſe of Commons.

In 1780 he publiſhed an Appendix to this Account, in which he extended the narrative of his travels to Italy, and gave ſome obſervations concerning the management of priſoners of war, and the hulks

on

on the Thames. This Appendix he republiſhed in 1784; which publication included alſo an account of his viſit to Denmark, Sweden, Ruſſia, Poland, Portugal, and Spain.

By this time his character for active benevolence had engaged the public attention, and it was propoſed that a ſubſcription ſhould be ſet on foot, to erect a ſtatue to his honour. This idea, being taken up and zealouſly forwarded by Mr. Deputy Nichols, was ſo well received, that, in fifteen or ſixteen months, 615 perſons ſubſcribed 1533*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*; but ſome of thoſe who knew Mr. Howard beſt never concurred in the ſcheme, being well aſſured that he would never countenance nor accede to it: and the event juſtified their conduct; for the language that he held upon the ſubject, when firſt adviſed of it, was, "Have not I one friend in England, that would put a ſtop to ſuch a proceeding?"

Such was the unbounded modeſty of Mr. Howard. To be uſeful to ſociety, he conſidered as the firſt duty of man; and if from his active labours he had alleviated any part of the ſufferings of his fellow-beings, it was to him a ſource of real joy. For this end, nothing could impede his benevolent exertions. He had ſuſtained various hardſhips in different climates; which, inſtead of leſſening

or

or damping his ardour, ſeemed to give freſh powers to the mind in his laudable purſuit.

We find afterwards that, by his ardent wiſh, the plan of his friends was ſtopped.

He next publiſhed an "Account of the principal Lazarettos in Europe, with various Papers relative to the Plague; together with further Obſervations on ſome foreign Priſons and Hoſpitals, and additional Remarks on the preſent State of thoſe in Great Britain and Ireland;" with a great number of curious plates. Not ſatisfied, however, with what he had already done, he concludes his Account of Lazarettos with announcing his intention again to quit his country, for the purpoſe of reviſiting Ruſſia, Turkey, and ſome other countries, and extending his tour in the Eaſt. On this tour, however, he fell a victim to his humanity; for, having viſited a young lady at Cherſon, ſick of an epidemic fever, for the purpoſe of adminiſtering ſome medical aſſiſtance; he caught the diſtemper himſelf, and was carried off in twelve days, January 20, 1790.

What permanent good may ariſe from his unwearied, well-intended labours, both in theſe kingdoms and the reſt of Europe, time only can ſhow. Certain it is, that his plan has been adopted in many of our new-built gaols, and will gra-

gradually be extended to more. The name of Howard will live in the remembrance of thoſe who have been reſcued by his exertions, from the gloomy horrors of confinement, which might otherwiſe have been unlimited; alleviated in the pangs of diſeaſe, which might have been irremediable; and comforted in the ſtill more agonizing reproaches of conſcious guilt, which would inevitably have terminated in deſtruction.

When we contemplate the various duties of men, and to what noble objects their minds in different periods have been directed, inſtead of merely ſpeaking of them as once living but now no more, they ſhould call for our reverence and gratitude! Such is the character we are now ſpeaking of, and many others recorded in the preſent volume.

A ſtatue to Mr. Howard's memory has been erected in St. Paul's cathedral; and an animated teſtimony has been paid to his virtues by Mr. Hayley, from whoſe poem we extract the following ſtanzas:

HAIL, generous HOWARD! though thou bear
A name which Glory's hand ſublime
Has blazon'd oft, with guardian care,
In characters that fear not time:
For thee ſhe fondly ſpreads her wings,
For thee, from Paradiſe ſhe brings,
More verdant than her laurel bough,
Such wreaths of ſacred palm, as ne'er till now
The ſmiling ſeraph twin'd around a mortal brow.

Where,

Where, in the dungeon's loathſome ſhade,
The ſpeechleſs captive clanks his chain,
With heartleſs hope to raiſe that aid
His feeble cries have call'd in vain;
Thine eye his dumb complaint explores;
Thy voice his parting breath reſtores;
Thy cares his ghaſtly viſage clear
From death's chill dew, with many a clotted tear,
And to his thankful ſoul returning life endear.

Bleſt HOWARD! who like thee can feel
This vital ſpring in all its force?
New ſtar of philanthropic zeal,
Enlight'ning nations in their courſe!
And ſhedding comfort's heavenly dew
On meagre Want's deſerted crew!
Friend to the wretch, whom friends diſclaim,
Who feels ſtern Juſtice, in his famiſh'd frame,
A perſecuting fiend beneath an angel's name.

Taught by that God, in mercy's robe,
Who his celeſtial throne reſign'd,
To free the priſon of the globe
From vice, th' oppreſſor of the mind!
For thee, of miſery's rights bereft,
For thee, Captivity! he left
Fair Fortune's lap, who, far from coy,
Bade him, with ſmiles, his golden hours employ
In her delicious bower, the feſtive ſcene of joy!

No monarch's word, nor lucre's luſt,
Nor vain ambition's reſtleſs fire,
Nor ample pow'r, that ſacred truſt!
His life diffuſing toils inſpire:
Rous'd by no voice, ſave that whoſe cries
Internal bid the ſoul ariſe
From joys, that only *ſeem* to bleſs,
From low purſuits, which little minds poſſeſs,
To Nature's nobleſt aim, the ſuccour of diſtreſs.

His care exulting Britain found
Here firſt diſplay'd, not here confin'd!
No ſingle tract of earth could bound
The active virtues of his mind:

To

To all the lands, where'er the tear
That mourn'd the priſoner's wrongs ſevere,
Sad Pity's gliſt'ning cheek impearl'd,
Eager he ſteer'd, with every ſail unfurl'd,
A friend to every clime, a patriot of the world!

SIR WILLIAM JONES.

SIR WILLIAM JONES, one of the judges of the ſupreme court of judicature in Bengal, was born 1746. Endowed by nature with a mind of extraordinary vigour, by unwearied induſtry, aided by ſuperior genius, he ſucceſsfully employed the hidden ſources of eaſtern ſcience and literature; and his attainments in this intereſting branch of learning were ſuch as to place him far beyond all competition, the moſt eminent Oriental ſcholar in this or perhaps any other age.

In his public character, the labour he afforded in the diſpatch of buſineſs, the clearneſs of his diſcernment, and his legal abilities, well qualified him for one of the guardians of the laws and the rights of his fellow-citizens.

As a ſcholar, his name is known wherever literature is cultivated. In private life he was companionable, mild, gentle, and amiable in his manners, and his converſation was rich and energetic. In all the

lations

relations of public and private life, he was revered and beloved.

We are particularly indebted to his ſucceſſor, Sir John Shore, for the following eulogium on his memory, delivered at the Aſiatic Society in Calcutta, May, 1794:

"It was lately our boaſt to poſſeſs a preſident whoſe name, talents, and character would have been honourable to any inſtitution: it is now our misfortune to lament that Sir William Jones exiſts but in the affections of his friends, and in the eſteem, veneration, and regret of all.

"I cannot, I flatter myſelf, offer a more grateful tribute to the ſociety than by making his character the ſubject of my firſt addreſs to you; and if, in the delineation of it, fondneſs and affection for the man ſhould appear—blended with my reverence for his genius and abilities, in the ſympathy of your feelings I ſhall find my apology.

"To define with accuracy the variety, value, and extent of his literary attainments, requires more learning than I pretend to poſſeſs. However, I ſhall begin with mentioning his wonderful capacity for the acquiſition of languages, which has never been excelled. In Greek and Roman literature, his early proficiency was the ſubject of admiration and applauſe; and knowledge, of whatever nature,

ture, once obtained by him, was ever afterwards progreſſive.

" At an early period of life his application to Oriental literature commenced: he ſtudied the Hebrew with eaſe and ſucceſs.

" Before the expiration of his twenty-ſecond year he had completed his Commentaries on the Poetry of the Aſiatics.—But the judgment of Sir William Jones was too diſcerning to conſider language in any other light than as the key of ſcience, and he would have deſpiſed the reputation of a mere linguiſt. Knowledge and truth were the object of all his ſtudies, and his ambition was to be uſeful to mankind: with theſe views he extended his reſearches to all languages, nations, and times.

" The ſtudents of Perſian literature muſt ever be grateful to him for a grammar of that language, in which he has ſhown the poſſibility of combining taſte and elegance with the preciſion of a grammarian; and every admirer of Arabic poetry muſt acknowledge his obligations to him for an Engliſh verſion of the ſeven celebrated poems ſo well known by the name of MOALLAKAT, from the diſtinction to which their excellence had entitled them, of being ſuſpended in the Temple of Mecca.

" Of his lighter productions, the elegant

gant amuſements of his leiſure hours, comprehending Hymns on the Hindu Mythology, Poems, conſiſting chiefly of tranſlations from the Aſiatic languages, and the verſion of SACONTALA, an ancient Indian drama, it would be unbecoming to ſpeak in a ſtyle of importance, which he did not himſelf annex to them. They ſhow the activity of a vigorous mind, its fertility, its genius, and its taſte.

" Of the ability and conſcientious integrity with which he diſcharged the functions of a magiſtrate, and the duties of a judge of the ſupreme court of judicature in this ſettlement, the public voice and public regret bear ample and merited teſtimony.

" With a mind rich in knowledge, he alſo profeſſed his conviction of the truth of the Chriſtian religion; and he juſtly deemed it no inconſiderable advantage, that his reſearches had corroborated the multiplied evidence of revelation, by confirming the Moſaic account of the primitive world.

" To an unextinguiſhed ardour for univerſal knowledge, he joined a perſeverance in the purſuit of it, which ſubdued all obſtacles: his ſtudies began with the dawn, and during the intermiſſions of profeſſional duties, were continued throughout the day; reflection and meditation ſtrengthen-

ſtrengthened and confirmed what induſtry and inveſtigation had accumulated.

" Of the private and ſocial virtues of our lamented preſident, our hearts are the beſt records. To you who knew him, it cannot be neceſſary for me to expatiate on the independence of his integrity, his humanity, probity, or benevolence, which every living creature participated; on the affability of his converſation and manners, or his modeſt, unaſſuming deportment. His preſence was the delight of every ſociety, which his converſation exhilarated and improved; and the public have not only to lament the loſs of his talents and abilities, but that of his illuſtrious example."

He died in the Eaſt Indies, April, 1794: and his memory has received two very honourable tributes of regard, from the pens of Mr. Maurice and Mr. Hayley.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

OUR celebrated lexicographer and moraliſt, Samuel Johnſon, was born at Lichfield, September 7, 1709. His father, Michael Johnſon, was a bookſeller in that city.

At eight years old, he was placed under Mr. Hawkins, at the free-ſchool at Lich-

Lichfield, where he was not remarkable for diligence or regular application. Whatever he read, his tenacious memory made his own. In the fields with his ſchool-fellows he talked more to himſelf than with his companions. In 1725, when he was about ſixteen years old, he went on a viſit to his couſin Cornelius Ford, who detained him for ſome months, and in the mean time aſſiſted him in the claſſics. —The general direction for his ſtudies, which he then received, he related to Mrs. Piozzi.

Mr. Ford's obſervation was—"Get ſome general principles of every ſcience: he who can talk only on one ſubject, or act only in one department, is ſeldom wanted, and, perhaps, never wiſhed for; while the man of general knowledge can often benefit, and always pleaſe."

This advice Johnſon ſeems to have purſued with a good inclination. His reading was always deſultory, ſeldom reſting on any particular author, but rambling from one book to another, and by haſty ſnatches, hoarding up a variety of knowledge.

On his return from Ford, Mr. Hunter, then maſter of the free-ſchool at Lichfield, refuſed to receive him again on that foundation. He was, therefore, placed at another ſchool, at Stourbridge, in Worceſterſhire, under the care of Mr. Wentworth.

worth. Having gone through the rudiments of claſſical literature, he returned to his father's houſe.

At the end of two years, being then about nineteen, he went to aſſiſt the ſtudies of a young gentleman, of the name of Corbet, to the univerſity of Oxford; and on the 31ſt of October, 1728, both were entered of Pembroke college; Corbet as a gentleman-commoner, and Johnſon as a commoner.

Ethics, theology, and claſſical literature, were his favourite ſtudies. He diſcovered, notwithſtanding, early ſymptoms of that wandering diſpoſition of mind which adhered to him to the end of his life. His reading was by fits and ſtarts, undirected to any particular ſcience. General philology, agreeably to his couſin Ford's advice, was the object of his ambition. He received, at that time, an early impreſſion of piety, and a taſte for the beſt authors ancient and modern.

He continued at the univerſity till the want of pecuniary ſupplies obliged him to quit the place. He obtained, however, the aſſiſtance of a friend, and returning in a ſhort time, was able to complete a reſidence of three years.

Wonders are told of his memory; and, indeed, all who knew him late in life can witneſs that he retained that faculty in the greateſt vigour.

From the univerſity Johnſon returned to Lichfield. His father died ſoon after, December, 1731; and the whole receipt out of his effects, as appeared by a memorandum in the ſon's hand-writing, dated 15th June, 1732, was no more than twenty pounds. In this exigence, determined that poverty ſhould neither depreſs his ſpirit nor warp his integrity, he became under-maſter of a grammar-ſchool at Market Boſworth, in Leiceſter-ſhire.

Leaving this occupation, we find his next expedient was to offer his aſſiſtance to Cave, the original projector of the Gentleman's Magazine. For this purpoſe, he ſent his propoſals in a letter, offering, on reaſonable terms, occaſionally to fill ſome pages with poems and inſcriptions never printed before.

Cave returned an anſwer, but it does not appear that any thing was done in conſequence of it.

In 1735 he married Mrs. Porter, a widow lady, worth about 800*l.* which he tried to turn to the beſt advantage by ſetting up a ſchool at Edial, near Lichfield; but this ſcheme proved unſucceſsful. He next tried his fortune in London, and was ſoon inliſted by Cave, as a regular coadjutor in his magazine.

About this period, he produced ſeveral works, that gained him a conſiderable degree

degree of praiſe, particularly his London, a ſatire, publiſhed in May, 1738; and the Life of his friend Savage.

To ſhow his poetical talents, we give the following extract:

"Must no diſlike alarm, no wiſhes riſe,
No cries invoke the mercies of the ſkies?"
Inquirer, ceaſe; petitions yet remain,
Which Heav'n may hear, or deem religion vain.
Still raiſe for good the ſupplicating voice,
But leave to Heav'n the meaſure and the choice.
Safe in his power, whoſe eyes diſcern afar
The ſecret ambuſh of a ſpecious prayer,
Implore his aid, in his deciſions reſt,
Secure whate'er he gives, he gives the beſt:
Yet when the ſenſe of ſacred preſence fires,
And ſtrong devotion to the ſkies aſpires,
Pour forth thy fervour for a healthful mind,
Obedient paſſions, and a will reſign'd;
For love, which ſcarce collective man can fill,
For patience, ſov'reign o'er tranſmuted ill;
For faith, that, panting for a happier ſeat,
Counts death kind nature's ſignal of retreat.
Theſe goods for man the laws of Heav'n ordain,
Theſe goods he grants who grants the pow'r to gain:
With theſe celeſtial wiſdom calms the mind,
And makes the happineſs ſhe does not find."

In Auguſt, 1738, we find he went, with all the fame of his poetry, to offer himſelf a candidate for the maſterſhip of the ſchool at Appleby, in Leiceſterſhire. But he miſcarried, from not having taken the degree of maſter of arts.

He made another effort to ſhake off the toils of authorſhip, by endeavouring to

be introduced to the bar at Doctors' Commons; but here the want of a doctor's degree in civil law was alſo an inſurmountable impediment.

It is mortifying to purſue a man of merit through all his difficulties; and yet this narrative muſt be, through many following years, the hiſtory of Genius and Virtue ſtruggling with Adverſity. Bred to no profeſſion, without relations, friends, or intereſt, he was ſtill condemned to drudgery in the ſervice of Cave, his only patron.

With a mind naturally vigorous, and quickened by neceſſity, he formed a multiplicity of projects; but moſt of them proved abortive. A number of ſmall tracts iſſued from his pen with wonderful rapidity.

It is a mortifying reflection, that with ſuch a ſtore of learning and extraordinary talents, he was not able, at the age of 30, to force his way to the favour of the public. "He was ſtill," as he ſays himſelf, "to provide for the day that was paſſing over him."

In 1743-4, Oſborne, the bookſeller, purchaſed the Earl of Oxford's library. He projected a catalogue in five octavo volumes. Johnſon was employed in that drudgery. He was likewiſe engaged to collect all ſuch ſmall tracts as were in any degree worth preſerving, in order to reprint

print and publiſh the whole in a collection, called The Harleian Miſcellany.

Soon after, a new undertaking was propoſed to him; namely, an Engliſh Dictionary, upon an enlarged plan.—Several of the moſt opulent bookſellers had meditated a work of this kind; and the agreement was ſoon adjuſted between the parties.

In this work our author, as he juſtly merited, has obtained immortal fame; but had it not been for the liberality of bookſellers, generations ſtill unborn might have lived to lament that a mind ſo ſtored with knowledge ſhould have found ſo few friends to patroniſe its efforts, and to have prevented him from feeling the force of his own penſive line—

"Slow riſes worth by poverty depreſs'd."

This great work was completed 1755, in two volumes folio.

In 1749 he publiſhed the Vanity of Human Wiſhes, for the copy-right of which he only obtained from Dodſley fifteen guineas.

In this year, his tragedy of Irene was brought on the ſtage, and unfavourably received.

Having invoked the ſpecial protection of Heaven, and by that act of piety fortified his mind, he began the work of the

Rambler. The firſt number was publiſhed on Tueſday, March the 20th, 1750; and, on the cloſe of this publication, Johnſon obſerves—"I look back on this part of my work with pleaſure, which no man ſhall diminiſh or augment. I ſhall never envy the honours which wit and learning obtain in any other cauſe, if I can be numbered among the writers who have given ardour to virtue, and confidence to truth."

The Rambler, on its firſt appearance, had no extenſive ſale.

In 1753, we find him aſſiſting Dr. Hawkeſworth in the Adventurer, at the price of two guineas for each paper.—In 1758 he publiſhed the Idler, and in 1759 Raſſelas.

He engaged as editor of an edition of Shakeſpeare, in 1756; but the work did not appear till 1765, and is only remembered for its admirable preface.

In 1776 he was taken to Mr. Thrale's. From this period, our author began to emerge from every difficulty: his circumſtances became more eaſy; Government allowed him a penſion of 300*l.* per annum, and his friends and connexions increaſed.

Though he poſſeſſed a great mind, he was not without many prejudices. His want of politeneſs, and his ſuperſtitious foibles, have often been expoſed: but his cha-

charitable and benevolent exertions will be long remembered by thoſe who love to dwell on merits rather than defects.

To ſum up the character of this great man. Since virtue, or moral goodneſs, conſiſts in a juſt conformity of our actions to the relations in which we ſtand to the Supreme Being and to our fellow-creatures, where ſhall we find a man who has been, or endeavoured to be, more diligent in the diſcharge of thoſe eſſential duties?

His firſt prayer was compoſed in 1738: he continued thoſe fervent ejaculations of piety to the end of his life. Piety was the ruling principle of all his conduct.—In his Meditations we ſee him ſcrutinizing himſelf with much ſeverity, and aiming at perfection unattainable by man. His duty to his neighbour conſiſted in univerſal benevolence, and a conſtant aim at the production of happineſs: where he failed, it was only in the leſſer virtues.

He died 1784, and was buried in Weſtminſter abbey, near the foot of Shakeſpeare's monument, and cloſe to the coffin of his friend and pupil Garrick.

In St. Paul's there is a handſome cenotaph erected to record his memory.

Mr. Courtenay ſums up his character in the following lines:

"THUS ſings the Muſe, to JOHNSON's memory juſt,
And ſcatters praiſe and cenſure o'er his duſt;
For thro' each chequer'd ſcene a contraſt ran,
Too ſad a proof how great, how weak is man!
Tho' o'er his paſſions conſcience held the rein,
He ſhook at diſmal phantoms of the brain;
A boundleſs faith that noble mind debas'd,
By piercing wit, energic reaſon grac'd;
Yet learning's ſons, who o'er his foibles mourn,
To lateſt time ſhall fondly view his urn;
And, wond'ring, praiſe, to human frailties blind,
Talents and virtues of the brighteſt kind.
The ſculptur'd trophy and imperial buſt,
That proudly riſe around his hallow'd duſt,
Shall mouldering fall, by time's ſlow hand decay'd;
But the high meed of virtue ne'er ſhall fade.
Exulting Genius ſtamps his ſacred name,
Enroll'd for ever in the dome of fame."

DR. ANDREW KIPPIS,

A DISSENTING Engliſh divine, and celebrated biographer (being the principal editor and conductor of that great national work the Biographia Britannica), was born at Nottingham, 1725. His father, a reſpectable tradeſman of that town, dying in the year 1730, he went to reſide with his grandfather, Andrew Kippis, of Seaford, and received his claſſical education at the grammar-ſchool

ſchool in that town.—In 1741 he removed to Northampton, and commenced his academical ſtudies under Dr. Doddridge.—After a reſidence of five years at the academy, he was invited by ſeveral congregations to become their miniſter, but gave the preference to an invitation from Boſton, in Lincolnſhire, where he went to reſide in 1746. Here he continued four years; and in 1750 accepted the paſtoral charge of a congregation at Dorking, in Surry.

The congregation meeting in Princes Street, Weſtminſter, having been without a miniſter about two years, he was choſen in June, 1753, to ſucceed the Rev. Dr. Hughes, and in the month of October fixed his reſidence in Weſtminſter.

In June, 1767, he received the degree of D. D. from the univerſity of Edinburgh, on the unſolicited recommendation of the late learned profeſſor Robertſon.

He was elected a member of the Society of Antiquaries in March, 1778; and in 1779 was choſen a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Kippis was eminently diſtinguiſhed for the virtues and accompliſhments which form the chief ornaments of private life. With a ſuavity of manners and urbanity of behaviour peculiarly attractive, he

united that knowledge of men and books, which rendered his converſation uncommonly entertaining and inſtructive to the circle of his acquaintance and friends.

As a miniſter he was not leſs eminent for his profound acquaintance with every branch of theology, than for the happy manner in which he applied it to the improvement of thoſe who attended his miniſtry. His ſermons were remarkable for perſpicuity, elegance, and energy; and his elocution was unaffected and very impreſſive, particularly at the cloſe of his diſcourſes.

But the ſuperior powers and vigour of mind which he derived from nature, and which he had cultivated with unremitting diligence and peculiar ſucceſs, were not to be confined to the narrow limits of private life, and the duties of the paſtoral charge, however important; they were deſigned for more extenſive and important ſervices to his country and to mankind. The intereſts of literature, ſcience, and religion, have received from the exertion of his talents as a writer, the moſt eſſential advantages.

His firſt efforts in literature were made in the Gentleman's Magazine, a periodical publication called the Library, and the Monthly Review: to each of which he contributed many important articles, eſpecially

cially in the hiſtorical and philological departments of the laſt.

He was the author of three important tracts, viz. A Vindication of the Proteſtant Diſſenting Miniſters, &c.; Obſervations on the Conteſts in the Royal Society; and Conſiderations on the Treaty with America, &c. His improved edition of Dr. Doddridge's Lectures is a work of great value; and The Hiſtory of Knowledge, Learning, and Taſte, in Great Britain, prefixed to the New Annual Regiſter, merits, and has received, the approbation of the public.

He publiſhed, at different times, ſeveral ſingle ſermons entitled to very high praiſe. The greater part of theſe he republiſhed, with other practical diſcourſes, in the year 1794; but the work which (next to the ſtudies immediately connected with his office as a Chriſtian miniſter) engaged his principal attention, and by which he will ever be diſtinguiſhed, is the Biographia Britannica.

In this great national publication, the comprehenſiveneſs and powers of his mind, the correctneſs of his judgment, the vaſt extent of his information, his indefatigable reſearches and unremitting aſſiduity, his peculiar talent of appreciating the merits and analyſing the labours of the moſt eminent writers, and his unbiaſſed fidelity and impartial deciſion on

the characters of the philoſopher, ſtateſman, poet, ſcholar, and divine, are ſtrongly diſplayed, and univerſally acknowledged. His ſtyle, formed on the models of Sir William Temple and the claſſical Addiſon, is remarkable for its perſpicuity and purity, and gives a peculiar luſtre to the rich ſtores of knowledge treaſured in the volumes now publiſhed, and which it is hoped will be continued and completed in the ſame elegant and critical manner.

This work has given him a high rank among the literati of this country, and will carry down his name with diſtinguiſhed reputation to poſterity.

This good man died October 8, 1795, univerſally and deſervedly reſpected.

JOHN LOCKE.

"LOCKE made the whole internal world his own."

THE celebrated philoſopher John Locke was born at Wrington, in Somerſetſhire, in 1632.

During his infancy his education was conducted with paternal care and affection, but with much ſtrictneſs and ſeverity, by his father.

The

The firſt part of his education he received at Weſtminſter ſchool, where he remained till he was 19 years of age, when he was removed to Oxford; and, being admitted of Chriſt-church, in 1651, became a ſtudent of that college.

Having taken, at the regular times, both his degrees in arts, he put himſelf upon the phyſic line, to which profeſſion he applied himſelf with great diligence, and practiſed therein a little at Oxford; but finding his conſtitution not able to bear the fatigue of much buſineſs, he forbore to purſue it; and, being highly delighted with the philoſophy of Des Cartes, which then began to grow in vogue, he thence took a fancy to that ſtudy.

In 1664 he had an opportunity of going abroad, in quality of ſecretary to Sir William Swan, who was appointed envoy to the Elector of Brandenburgh, and ſome other German princes.

He returned the year following to Oxford, where he continued to improve his knowledge in natural philoſophy and phyſic; and particularly, in 1666, fell in with a ſcheme that had been lately ſet on foot by Dr. Plott, of keeping a regiſter of the air, in order to perfect the natural hiſtory of what the phyſicians call the non-naturals.

He printed this at the end of a poſt-

humous

humous piece of Mr. Robert Boyle's, entitled, A General Hiſtory of the Air.

He was thus employed when an accident brought him acquainted with Lord Aſhley, afterwards Earl of Shafteſbury. His Lordſhip having an abſceſs in his breaſt, occaſioned by a fall, was adviſed to drink the Aſtrop waters. In this deſign, he wrote to a phyſician at Oxford, to procure ſome of thoſe waters to be ready againſt his arrival. That phyſician being called away by other buſineſs, tranſferred his commiſſion to his friend Mr. Locke, who found himſelf obliged to wait upon his Lordſhip the day after his arrival, to excuſe the diſappointment of not having the waters ready.

From this beginning, that lord became our philoſopher's patron, took him into his houſe, and introduced him to ſeveral lords of his acquaintance, who ſhowed him extraordinary reſpect.

Le Clerc tells us, that three or four of the noblemen who thus countenanced Mr. Locke, having met at Lord Aſhley's, rather for amuſement than buſineſs, after ſome compliments, very little converſation had paſſed when the butler brought in the cards. Mr. Locke looked on for ſome time while they were at play, and then, taking out his pocket-book, began to write with great attention. One of the company obſerving this, aſked him what

he

he was writing. "My Lord," ſays he, "I am endeavouring to profit, as far as I am capable, in your company."

The noble lords ſaw the ridicule, and diverted themſelves with improving the jeſt. They preſently quitted their play, entered into a converſation more ſuitable to their characters, and ſpent the reſt of the day in that manner.

After this he continued to reſide with Lord Aſhley.

In 1670, and the following year, he began to form the plan of his Eſſay on Human Underſtanding, but was hindered from making any great progreſs in that work by other employments, which were found for him by his patron, who, in 1672, being raiſed to the poſt of lord-chancellor, and to the earldom of Shafteſbury, did not forget to let his faithful friend ſhare in the fruits of his power, by appointing him ſecretary of the preſentations.

This place he held as long as Lord Shafteſbury kept the great ſeal.

In 1689 Mr. Locke printed at Amſterdam, in Latin, his Firſt Letter upon Toleration, which was tranſlated into Dutch and French the ſame year.

About the ſame time he was offered to go abroad in a public character; and it was left to his choice whether he would be envoy at the court of the Emperor, that of the Elector of Brandenburgh, or any other,

other, where he thought the air moſt ſuitable to him; but he waved all theſe on account of the ill ſtate of his health.

In 1690 he publiſhed his celebrated Eſſay on Human Underſtanding, in folio.

In 1695, King William obſerving him to be very capable of ſerving the public, appointed him one of the commiſſioners of trade and plantations. By this means he became engaged in the immediate ſervice of the ſtate; and with regard to that of the church, in order to promote the ſcheme which his Majeſty had much at heart, of a comprehenſion with the Diſſenters, he publiſhed, the ſame year, his treatiſe, entitled, The Reaſonableneſs of Chriſtianity, as delivered in the Scriptures.

He employed the laſt years of his life entirely in the ſtudy of the Holy Scriptures. His ſtrength began to fail more remarkably than it had done at the entrance of the ſummer of the year 1703, a ſeaſon, which, in former years, had always reſtored him to ſome degrees of ſtrength.

He lived ſome months after this; which time he ſpent in acts of piety and devotion; and the day before his death, Lady Maſham being alone with him, and ſitting by his bed-ſide, he exhorted her to regard this world only as a ſtate of preparation for a better; adding, that he had

lived long enough, and thanked God for having paſſed his life ſo happily.

He died 1704.

Mr. Des Maizeaux obſerved, that "Mr. Locke had great knowledge of the world and of the buſineſs of it. He won people's eſteem by his probity: his wiſdom, his experience, his gentle and obliging manners, gained him the reſpect of his inferiors, the eſteem of his equals, the friendſhip and confidence of thoſe of the higheſt quality."

Mr. Coſte ſays, that thoſe who lived any time with Mr. Locke could not help obſerving in him one thing, which was, that he took delight in making uſe of his reaſon in every thing he did; and nothing that was attended with any uſefulneſs ſeemed unworthy of his care; ſo that we may ſay of him what was ſaid of Queen Elizabeth, that he was no leſs capable of ſmall things than of great. He often uſed to ſay himſelf, that there was an art in every thing.

Among the honours paid to our author's memory may be mentioned that of the late Queen Caroline, who, on having erected a pavilion in honour of philoſophy, placed therein our author's buſt, on a level with Bacon, Newton, and Clarke, as the four prime Engliſh philoſophers.

Dr. Towers has alſo given the following teſtimony to the general character of Mr.

Mr. Locke—"that he was rendered truly illuſtrious by his wiſdom and his virtue, by the diſintereſtedneſs and uprightneſs of his conduct, by his love of truth, and by his ardent attachment to the great intereſts of mankind. He analyſed the human mind, explained its operations, and illuminated the intellectual world by the ſagacity of his reſearches. He examined into the foundation of civil government, and maintained the juſtice, the reaſonableneſs, and the neceſſity of religious toleration. He laboured to elucidate the Sacred Scriptures, to advance the intereſts of revelation and of virtue; and his name will continue to be reverenced wherever learning, liberty, and virtue, ſhall be held in eſtimation."

JOHN MILTON.

——"Each great, each amiable Muſe
Of claſſic ages in our MILTON met:
A genius univerſal as his theme,
Aſtoniſhing as chaos, as the bloom
Of blowing Eden fair, as Heaven ſublime."

OUR epic Poet was deſcended from an ancient family at Milton, near Thame, in Oxfordſhire. The family had

had been long ſeated there, as appears by the monuments ſtill to be ſeen in the church. His father purſued the buſineſs of a ſcrivener. But a man of Milton's genius needs not have the circumſtances of birth called in to render him illuſtrious; he reflects the higheſt honour upon his family, which receives from him more glory than the longeſt deſcent of years can give.

John Milton was born in London, December 9, 1608: he was educated for ſome time by a domeſtic tutor, and then ſent to St. Paul's ſchool, under Mr. Alexander Gill, where he made, by his indefatigable application, an extraordinary progreſs in learning. From his twelfth year he generally ſat up the greateſt part of the night at his ſtudies, which occaſioning frequent head-achs, proved very prejudicial to his eyes, and, in his own opinion, laid the foundation of his future blindneſs.

In his ſixteenth year he was entered at Chriſt's college in Cambridge, under the tuition of Mr. William Chappel, afterwards Biſhop of Roſs, in Ireland. The ſame year he wrote a Latin elegy on the death of Dr. Andrews, Biſhop of Wincheſter.

After he had taken the degree of maſter of arts, in 1632, he left the univerſity, and for the ſpace of five years lived with his

his parents at their houſe at Horton, in Buckinghamſhire, where his father, having acquired a competent fortune, thought proper to retire, and ſpend the remainder of his days.

In his retirement at Horton, which laſted five years, he read over all the Greek and Latin authors, and cloſely applied himſelf to the ſtudy of hiſtory, and to improving himſelf in poetry.

In the year 1634 he produced his Maſque of Comus, a work conſidered as inferior only to Paradiſe Loſt. His next production was Lycidas, a poem no leſs beautiful.

Upon the death of his mother, Milton obtained leave of his father to travel, and in 1638 ſet out for France, accompanied only by one ſervant, who attended him through all his travels.

At Paris he was introduced to the famous Hugo Grotius; from thence he went to Florence, Sienna, Rome, and Naples; in all which places he was careſſed by every one conſpicuous for high rank or diſtinguiſhed abilities.

At Naples, he was introduced to the acquaintance of Manſo, Marquis of Villa, a Neapolitan nobleman, celebrated for his taſte in the liberal arts, to whom Taſſo addreſſes his Dialogue on Friendſhip, and whom he mentions likewiſe in his Jeruſalem Delivered, with great honour. This noble-

nobleman ſhowed extraordinary civilities to Milton, frequently viſited him at his lodgings, and accompanied him when he went to ſee the ſeveral curioſities of the city.

He arrived ſafe in England, after an abſence of two years, in which he had ſeen much of the world, read the characters of famous men, examined the policy of different countries, and made more extenſive improvements than travellers of an inferior genius, and leſs penetration, can be ſuppoſed to do in double the time.

After his return, 1641, he took an active part in the ferment of the nation, and wrote ſeveral pamphlets, in favour of the republic, that found many readers.

He was admitted alſo into the ſervice of the commonwealth, and was made Latin ſecretary to the council of ſtate, who reſolved neither to write nor receive letters but in the Latin tongue, which was common to all ſtates.

In 1642 he married. In 1645 the *Allegro* and *Penſeroſo* appeared in a volume of Engliſh and Latin poems.

Juſt before the Reſtoration, he was removed from his office of Latin ſecretary, and concealed himſelf by the advice of his friends till public affairs became tranquil.

Fortune

Fortune is frequently favourable in the arrangement of events. An eſcape from the enthuſiaſm of politics might have rendered the great Milton an uncouth hiſtorian, and an unſucceſsful dramatiſt. It was the moſt felicitous circumſtance of his life, that, abandoning the drama religiouſly, and hiſtory from calamity, he fixed upon a theme of ſuch exquiſite beauty and ſublimity, as enabled him to bear the evils of blindneſs and adverſity, ſoothed by the nightly harmonies of heaven, and ſuſtained by the holy fervour of inſpired poeſy.

Before the publication of his great work *Paradiſe Loſt*, in 1667, he became totally blind. But notwithſtanding this ſevere misfortune, he, three years after, publiſhed *Samſon Agoniſtes* and *Paradiſe Regained*; and in Nov. 1674 our divine poet paid the debt of nature at his houſe in Bunhill Fields.

Dr. Johnſon obſerves—" that Milton's Engliſh poems, though they make no promiſes of *Paradiſe Loſt*, have this evidence of genius, that they have a caſt original and unborrowed.

" Of the two pieces, *L' Allegro* and *Il Penſeroſo*, I believe opinion is uniform; every man that reads them, reads them with pleaſure.

" The greateſt of his juvenile performances is the *Maſque of Comus*, in which may

may very plainly be diſcovered the dawn or twilight of *Paradiſe Loſt*. Milton appears to have formed very early that ſyſtem of diction and mode of verſe which his maturer judgment approved, and from which he never endeavoured nor deſired to deviate.

"His *Paradiſe Loſt* is a poem which, conſidered with reſpect to deſign, may claim the firſt place, and with reſpect to performance the ſecond, among the productions of the human mind.

" By the general conſent of critics, the firſt praiſe of genius is due to the writer of an epic poem, as it requires an aſſemblage of all the powers which are ſingly ſufficient for other compoſitions. Poetry is the art of uniting pleaſure with truth, by calling imagination to the help of reaſon.

" To Adam and to Eve are given, during their innocence, ſuch ſentiments as innocence can generate and utter. Their love is pure benevolence and mutual veneration; their repaſts are without luxury, and their diligence without toil. Their addreſſes to their Maker have little more than the voice of admiration and gratitude. Fruition left them nothing to aſk, and Innocence left them nothing to fear."

To give the reader an idea of the beauty and ſublimity of this poem, we in-

inſert the Morning Hymn of our firſt parents:

"THESE are thy glorious works, Parent of Good!
Almighty! Thine this univerſal frame
Thus wondrous fair; Thyſelf how wondrous then!
Unſpeakable! who ſit'ſt above theſe heav'ns,
To us inviſible, or dimly ſeen
In theſe thy loweſt works; yet theſe declare
Thy goodneſs beyond thought, and power divine.
Speak ye who beſt can tell, ye ſons of light,
Angels; for ye behold Him, and with ſongs
And choral ſymphonies, day without night,
Circle his throne rejoicing; ye in heav'n,
On earth join all ye creatures to extol
Him firſt, Him laſt, Him midſt, and without end.
Faireſt of ſtars, laſt in the train of night,
If better thou belong not to the dawn,
Sure pledge of day, that crown'ſt the ſmiling morn
With thy bright circlet, praiſe him in thy ſphere,
While day ariſes, that ſweet hour of prime.
Thou ſun, of this great world both eye and ſoul,
Acknowledge him thy greater; ſound his praiſe
In thy eternal courſe, both when thou climb'ſt,
And when high noon haſt gain'd, and when thou fall'ſt.
Moon, that now meet'ſt the orient ſun, now fly'ſt
With the fix'd ſtars, fix'd in their orb that flies,
And ye five other wand'ring fires, that move
In myſtic dance not without ſong, reſound
His praiſe, who out of darkneſs call'd up light.
Air, and ye elements, the eldeſt birth
Of Nature's womb, that in quaternion run
Perpetual circle, multiform; and mix,
And nouriſh all things; let your ceaſeleſs change
Vary to our great Maker ſtill new praiſe.
Ye miſts and exhalations, that now riſe
From hill or ſteaming lake, duſky or grey,
Till the ſun paint your fleecy ſkirts with gold,
In honour to the world's great Author riſe,
Whether to deck with clouds the' uncolour'd ſky,
Or wet the thirſty earth with falling ſhowers,

Riſing

Riſing or falling ſtill advance His praiſe.
His praiſe, ye winds, that from four quarters blow,
Breathe ſoft or loud; and wave your tops, ye pines,
With every plant, in ſign of worſhip wave.
Fountains, and ye, that warble as ye flow,
Melodious murmurs, warbling tune His praiſe.
Join voices all, ye living ſouls; ye birds,
That ſinging up to heaven gate aſcend,
Bear on your wings and in your notes His praiſe.
Ye that in waters glide, and ye that walk
The earth, and ſtately tread, or lowly creep;
Witneſs if I be ſilent, morn or even,
To hill, or valley, fountain, or freſh ſhade,
Made vocal by my ſong, and taught His praiſe.
Hail, univerſal Lord! be bounteous ſtill
To give us only good; and if the night
Have gathered ought of evil, or conceal'd,
Diſperſe it, as now light diſpels the dark."

"The thoughts which are occaſionally called forth in the progreſs of this poem (continues our learned critic), are ſuch as could only be produced by an imagination in the higheſt degree fervid and active, to which materials were ſupplied by inceſſant ſtudy and unlimited curioſity. The heat of Milton's mind might be ſaid to ſublimate his learning, to throw off into his work the ſpirit of ſcience, unmingled with its groſſer parts.—He had conſidered creation in its whole extent, and his deſcriptions are therefore learned.

"Of his moral ſentiments it is hardly praiſe to affirm that they excel thoſe of all other poets; for this ſuperiority he was indebted to his acquaintance with the ſacred writings.

"Of *Paradiſe Regained*, the general judgment ſeems now to be right, that it is in many parts elegant, and every where inſtructive. It was not to be ſuppoſed that the writer of *Paradiſe Loſt* could ever write without great effuſions of fancy, and exalted precepts of wiſdom. The baſis of *Paradiſe Regained* is narrow; a dialogue without action can never pleaſe like an union of the narrative and dramatic powers. Had this poem been written not by Milton, but by ſome imitator, it would have claimed and received univerſal praiſe.

"His great works were performed under diſcountenance, and in blindneſs; but difficulties vaniſhed at his touch: he was born for whatever is arduous, and his work is not the greateſt of heroic poems, only becauſe it is not the firſt."

SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

"An awful ſage of pure intelligence, whom God
To mortals lent, to trace his boundleſs works
From laws ſublimely ſimple."

ISAAC NEWTON, our great philoſopher, the prodigy of aſtronomical and mathematical learning, was born at Woolſ-

Woolſthorpe, in Lincolnſhire, on Chriſtmas-day, 1642. His father dying while he was yet a child, left him lord of that manor. His mother did not neglect to take a becoming care of her ſon's education, and at twelve years of age put him to the free-ſchool at Grantham, in the ſame county.

It was not her deſign to breed him a ſcholar; but the youth ſhowed ſo little diſpoſition to turn his thoughts any other way, that his mother concluded it beſt to let him purſue the bent of his own inclinations. For that purpoſe, ſhe ſent him back to Grantham, whence, at 18 years of age, he removed to Cambridge, where he was admitted into Trinity college, in the year 1660.

The ſtudy of the mathematics had been introduced into the univerſity at the beginning of the laſt century. From that period, the elements of geometry and algebra generally became one branch of a tutor's lectures to his pupils. Mr. Newton, at his admiſſion, found Dr. Barrow, the moſt eminent mathematician of the time, fellow of his college.

Our author, therefore, by turning his thoughts to the mathematics, ſeems to have done no more than fall in, as well with his own particular ſituation, as with the general taſte of that time; but then

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it is univerſally confeſſed, he did it with a genius that was ſuperior to all that ever went before him.

For a beginning, he took up Euclid's Elements; he ran his eye over the book, and at ſight was maſter of every propoſition in it.

About this time he obſerved, that the greateſt mathematical profeſſors were buſied in finding out improvements to teleſcopes, and he threw aſide all abſtracted ſpeculations, to engage in this more uſeful ſtudy.

He applied himſelf, in the year 1666, to the grinding of optic glaſſes of other figures than ſpherical, having no diſtruſt as yet of the homogeneous nature of light; but not hitting preſently upon any thing in this attempt which ſucceeded to his mind, he procured a glaſs priſm, in order to try the celebrated phenomena of colours, not long before diſcovered by Grimaldi.

He was much pleaſed at firſt with viewing the vivid brightneſs of the colours produced by this experiment, and became immediately ſurpriſed to ſee them in an oblong form; which, according to the received rule of refractions, ought to have been circular; he therefore preſently invented an infallible method of deciding it, and this produced his New Theory of Light and Colours.

Amidſt

Amidſt theſe thoughts, he was forced from Cambridge by the plague; but he was far from paſſing away the hours in a negligence of thought in the country: on the contrary, it was there that he firſt ſtarted the hint that gave riſe to the ſyſtem of the world, which is the main ſubject of his "*Principia*.

In the year 1667 he was choſen fellow of his college, and took the degree of maſter of arts. His thoughts were again engaged upon his newly-projected teleſcope by reflection; which, being a very uſeful invention, he was moſt deſirous to complete. This, therefore, he ſet himſelf to find out; when Dr. Barrow reſigning the mathematical chair at Cambridge to him, in November, 1669, the buſineſs of that profeſſorſhip interrupted his attention to the teleſcope.

As his thoughts had been for ſome time chiefly employed upon optics, he made his diſcoveries in that ſcience the ſubject of his lectures for the three firſt years after he was appointed mathematical profeſſor.

He had not finiſhed theſe lectures when he was choſen Fellow of the Royal Society in January, 1672; and, having now brought his theory of light and colours to a great degree of perfection, he communicated it to that ſociety firſt, to have their judgment upon it; and it was afterwards

wards publiſhed in their Tranſactions of February, 1672.

He next reſumed his reflecting-teleſcope, the moſt immediately uſeful part of his optics. He ſent it to the Royal Society, at their requeſt, together with a deſcription of it; which was afterwards publiſhed in the Philoſophical Tranſactions for the year 1672.

In 1680 he made ſeveral aſtronomical obſervations upon the comet that then appeared; which, for ſome conſiderable time, he took not to be one and the ſame, but two different comets, againſt the opinion of Mr. Flamſteed.

He publiſhed, under the care of Dr. Halley (1687), his *Philoſophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*. From hence it appears, that this treatiſe, full of ſuch a variety of profound inventions, was compoſed from ſcarcely any other materials than the few propoſitions he had previouſly laid down, in the ſpace of eighteen months.

The ſecond edition, with great additions and improvements by the author, was printed in 1713.

The third edition, with ſtill further improvements, was publiſhed at London, in 4to, under the care of Henry Pemberton, M. D.

This book, in which our author had built a new ſyſtem of natural philoſophy, upon the moſt ſublime geometry, did not meet

meet at firſt with all the applauſe it deſerved, and was one day to receive.

Mr. Newton had, with an unparalleled penetration, purſued Nature up to her moſt ſecret abodes, and was intent to demonſtrate her reſidence to others, rather than anxious to point out the way by which he arrived at it himſelf. At laſt, when his worth came to be ſufficiently known, the approbation which had been ſo ſlowly gained became univerſal, and nothing was to be heard from all quarters but one general ſhout of admiration.

"Does Mr. Newton eat, or drink, or ſleep, like other men?" ſaid the Marquis l'Hôpital, one of the greateſt mathematicians of the age; "I repreſent him to myſelf as a celeſtial genius, entirely diſengaged from matter."

At this epoch of his popularity, he was choſen one of the univerſity repreſentatives in the convention parliament, in 1688, which he attended till its diſſolution.

Charles Montague, being bred at the ſame college, obtained of the king, for Mr. Newton, in 1696, the office of warden of the mint. This poſt put him in a capacity of doing ſignal ſervices in that affair, which was of ſo great importance to the nation; and, three years after, he was promoted to be maſter of the mint, a

place worth from 12 to 1500*l.* per annum, which he held till his death.

The Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris having made a new regulation for admitting foreigners into that ſociety, Mr. Newton was immediately elected a member.

In 1703 he was choſen preſident of the Royal Society; and he remained in that honourable ſtation during life.

In 1704 he publiſhed his Optics; or, a Treatiſe on the Reflections, Refractions, Inflections, and Colours of Light.

But his aſſiduous philoſophical reſearches for ſo many years were far from being confined to the ſubject of light alone: he had found out that there was a mutual action at a diſtance between light and other bodies; by which both the reflections and refractions, as well as inflections, of the former, were conſtantly produced.

In 1705, Queen Anne, in conſideration of his extraordinary merit, conferred the honour of knighthood upon him. From this period, until his death, he was employed in various philoſophical reſearches.

On the morning of March 18, 1726, he read the newſpapers, and diſcourſed a long time with Dr. Mead, his phyſician, having then the perfect uſe of all his ſenſes and his underſtanding; but that night

night he entirely loſt them all; and not recovering them after, he died on the Monday following.

His body, on the 28th of March, was conveyed to Weſtminſter abbey. The corpſe was interred juſt at the entrance into the choir, on the left hand, where a ſtately monument has been erected to his memory.

In contemplating the profound mind of Sir Iſaac Newton, it preſently becomes a doubt which of theſe endowments had the greateſt ſhare in his compoſition; ſagacity, penetration, ſtrength, or diligence. But he himſelf ſpoke of his own abilities with great modeſty.

When one of his friends had ſaid ſome handſome things of his extraordinary talents, Sir Iſaac, in an eaſy and unaffected way, aſſured him, that, for his own part, he was ſenſible that whatever he had done worth notice was owing to a patience of thought, rather than any extraordinary ſagacity which he was endowed with above other men. "I keep the ſubject conſtantly before me," ſaid the ſage, "and wait till the firſt dawnings open ſlowly, by little and little, into a full and clear light."

He never thought either his merit or reputation ſufficient to excuſe him from any of the common offices of ſocial life.

No ſingularity, either natural or affected, diſtinguiſhed him from other men.

With reſpect to his religious ſentiments, though he was firmly attached to the church of England, he was averſe to the perſecution of the non-conformiſts.—He was thoroughly perſuaded of the truth of revelation, and, amidſt the great variety of books which he had conſtantly before him, that which he ſtudied with the greateſt application was the BIBLE.

He did not neglect the opportunities of doing good, which the revenues of his patrimony and a profitable employment, improved by a prudent economy, put into his power.

After Sir Iſaac's death, there were found among his papers ſeveral diſcourſes upon ſubjects of antiquity, hiſtory, divinity, chymiſtry, and mathematics; ſome of which have been publiſhed.

The poet of the Seaſons has thus recorded our author's moral excellencies, in a ſublime Elegy to his memory:

"Say, ye who beſt can tell, ye happy few!
Who ſaw him in the ſofteſt lights of life,
All unwithheld, indulging to his friends
The vaſt unborrow'd treaſures of his mind,
Oh, ſpeak the wondrous man! how mild, how calm,
How greatly humble, how divinely good;
How firm eſtabliſh'd on eternal truth;
Fervent in doing well, with every nerve
Still preſſing on, forgetful of the paſt,

And

And panting for perfection; far above
Thoſe little cares and viſionary joys,
That ſo perplex the fond impaſſion'd heart
Of ever-cheated, ever-truſting man."

ALEXANDER POPE.

THIS great Poet of Reaſon, and Prince of Rhyme, as he is ſometimes termed, was born in London, May 22, 1688, of parents whoſe rank or ſtation was never fully aſcertained. We are informed that his father was of a family related to the Earl of Downe, and that his mother was the daughter of William Turner, Eſq. of York.

This, and this only, is told by Pope, who appeared more willing to ſhow what his father was not, than what he was. It is allowed that he grew rich by trade; but whether in a ſhop or on the Exchange was never diſcovered, till Mr. Tyers told, on the authority of Mrs. Racket, that he was a linen-draper in the Strand.

Pope, from his birth, was of a conſtitution tender and delicate; but is ſaid to have ſhown remarkable gentleneſs and ſweetneſs of diſpoſition. The weakneſs of his body continued through his life, but the mildneſs of his mind perhaps

ended with his childhood. His voice, when he was young, was ſo pleaſing, that he was called, in fondneſs, the *little Nightingale*.

Not being ſent early to ſchool, he was taught to read by an aunt; and at ſeven or eight years old, became a lover of books. He firſt learned to write, by imitating print; a ſpecies of penmanſhip in which he retained great excellence through his whole life.

About the age of eight, he was placed under Taverner, a Romiſh prieſt, who, by a method very rarely practiſed, taught him the Greek and Latin rudiments together. He was firſt initiated in poetry by the peruſal of Ogilby's *Homer*, and Sandys's *Ovid*, which he read with a delight, that ſhowed the bent of his genius.

From the care of Taverner, under whom his proficiency was conſiderable, he was removed to a ſchool at Twyford, near Wincheſter, and again to another ſchool near Hyde Park Corner; from which he uſed ſometimes to ſtroll to the play-houſe, and was ſo delighted with theatrical exhibitions, that he formed a kind of play from Ogilby's tranſlation of the *Iliad*.

At twelve years old he was called by his father to Binfield, and from that time till twenty, became his own preceptor.

Of a youth ſo ſucceſsfully employed, and

and ſo conſpicuouſly improved, a minute account muſt be naturally deſired; but curioſity muſt be contented with confuſed, imperfect, and ſometimes improbable intelligence.

His primary and principal purpoſe was to be a poet, with which his father accidentally concurred, by propoſing ſubjects, and obliging him to correct his performances by many reviſals; after which the old gentleman, when he was ſatisfied, would ſay, *Theſe are good rhymes.*

The earlieſt of Pope's productions is his *Ode on Solitude*, written before he was twelve.

He ſometimes imitated the Engliſh poets, and profeſſed to have written at fourteen his poem upon *Silence.*

Next year he was deſirous of opening to himſelf new ſources of knowledge, by making himſelf acquainted with modern languages; and removed for a time to London, that he might ſtudy French and Italian.

He then returned to Binfield, and delighted himſelf with his own poetry. He tried all ſtyles and many ſubjects. He wrote a comedy, a tragedy, an epic poem, with panegyrics on all the princes of Europe; and, as he confeſſes, *thought himſelf the greateſt genius that ever was.*

Moſt of his puerile productions were, by

by his maturer judgment, afterwards deſtroyed.

From the age of ſixteen the life of Pope, as an author, may be properly computed. He now wrote his Paſtorals, which were ſhown to the poets and critics of that time; and, as they well deſerved, they were read with admiration.

The account given by himſelf of his ſtudies was, that from fourteen to twenty he read only for amuſement, from twenty to twenty-ſeven for improvement and inſtruction; that in the firſt part of this time he deſired only to know, and in the ſecond he endeavoured to judge.

In 1707 was written the *Eſſay on Criticiſm*; a work which diſplays ſuch extent of comprehenſion, ſuch nicety of diſtinction, ſuch acquaintance with mankind, and ſuch knowledge both of ancient and modern learning, as are not often attained by the matureſt age and longeſt experience.

Not long after, he wrote the *Rape of the Lock*, the moſt airy, the moſt ingenious, and the moſt delightful of all his compoſitions.

In 1713 he publiſhed *Windſor Foreſt*; of which part was, as he relates, written at ſixteen, about the ſame time as his Paſtorals.

When the tragedy of *Cato* made its appearance, he introduced it by a ſolemn and ſublime prologue. About the ſame time,

time, he wrote the celebrated Epiſtle from *Eloiſa to Abelard*.

He next reſolved to try how far the favour of the public extended, by ſoliciting a ſubſcription to a verſion of the *Iliad*, with notes; in 6 vols. 4to. for ſix guineas. —To print by ſubſcription was, for ſome time, a practice peculiar to the Engliſh.

The *Iliad* was publiſhed volume by volume, as the tranſlation proceeded; the four firſt books appeared in 1715. The expectation of this work was undoubtedly high, and every man who had connected his name with criticiſm, or poetry, was deſirous of ſuch a book.

While the volumes of his *Homer* were annually publiſhed, he collected his former works (1717) into one quarto volume, to which he prefixed a Preface, written with great ſprightlineſs and elegance.

The publication of the *Iliad* was at laſt completed in 1720.—The ſubſcribers were in number 575.

He gave in the following year an edition of *Shakſpeare*; in which Dr. Johnſon obſerved, he did many things wrong, and left many things undone.

Soon after the appearance of the *Iliad*, reſolving not to let the general kindneſs cool, he publiſhed propoſals for a tranſlation of the *Odyſſey*, in five volumes, for five guineas.

On the Engliſh *Odyſſey* a judicious and candid

candid criticiſm was publiſhed by Spence, at that time Prelector of Poetry at Oxford. With this criticiſm Pope was ſo little offended, that he ſought the acquaintance of the writer, who lived with him from that time in great familiarity, attended him in his laſt hours, and compiled memorials of his converſation.

In 1728 he diſplayed his ſatirical powers by publiſhing the *Dunciad*, one of his greateſt and moſt elaborate performances, in which he endeavoured to ſink into contempt all the writers by whom he had been attacked, and ſome others whom he thought unable to defend themſelves. This ſatire drew forth innumerable paſquinades upon the author.

Without his name, in 1733, was publiſhed the firſt part of the *Eſſay on Man*.

The ſecond and third Epiſtles were ſucceſſively publiſhed; and Pope was more and more ſuſpected of writing them: at laſt, in 1734, he avowed the fourth, and claimed the honour of a moral poet.

At this time he lived *among the great*, with that attention and reſpect to which his works entitled him.

When the court was at Richmond, it was ſaid, that Queen Caroline had expreſſed her intention of viſiting him.

He publiſhed from time to time (between 1730 and 1740) Imitations of different

ſerent poems of Horace, generally with his name, and once, as was ſuſpected, without it.

In 1742, at Warburton's requeſt, he added another book to the *Dunciad*. From this time, finding his vital powers gradually declining, he contented himſelf with reviſing his former works.

In 1743 he began to conſider himſelf as approaching to his end. In May 1744 his death took place: on the ſixth, he was all day delirious, which he mentioned four days afterwards as a ſufficient humiliation of the vanity of man.

In the morning, after the prieſt had given him the laſt ſacraments, he ſaid—"There is nothing that is meritorious but virtue and friendſhip, and indeed friendſhip itſelf is only a part of virtue."

He died in the evening of May the 30th, ſo placidly, that the attendants did not diſcern the exact time of his expiration. He was buried at Twickenham, near his father and mother, where a monument has been erected to him by his commentator, Dr. Warburton.

Of his ſocial qualities, if an eſtimate be made from his Letters, an opinion too favourable cannot eaſily be formed; they exhibit a perpetual and unclouded effulgence of general benevolence, and particular fondneſs. There is nothing but liberality,

berality, gratitude, conſtancy, and tenderneſs.

As a poet, in his day he unqueſtionably had no rival: there is a harmony and ſweetneſs in his numbers that makes his manner altogether his own.

Pope's verſification, ſays Mr. Cumberland, gave the laſt and finiſhed poliſh to Engliſh poetry. Review him as a critic, and review him throughout, you will pronounce him the moſt perfect poet in our language; read him as an enthuſiaſt, and examine him in detail, you cannot refuſe him your approbation.

As a ſpecimen of his didactic ſtyle, we extract the following lines from his Eſſay on Man:

ON VIRTUE.

KNOW thou this truth (enough for man to know)
"Virtue alone is happineſs below."
The only point where human bliſs ſtands ſtill,
And taſtes the good without the fall to ill;
Where only Merit conſtant pay receives,
Is bleſt in what it takes, and what it gives;
The joy unequall'd if its end it gain,
And if it loſe, attended with no pain:
The broadeſt mirth unfeeling Folly wears,
Leſs pleaſing far than Virtue's very tears:
Good, from each object, from each place acquir'd,
For ever exercis'd, yet never tir'd;
Never elated, while one man's oppreſs'd;
Never dejected, while another's bleſs'd;
And where no wants, no wiſhes can remain,
Since but to wiſh more Virtue, is to gain.
See the ſole bliſs Heav'n could on all beſtow!
Which who but feels can taſte, but thinks can know:

Yet

Yet poor with fortune, and with learning blind,
The bad muſt miſs; the good, untaught, will find;
Slave to no ſect, who takes no private road,
But looks through Nature, up to Nature's God:
Purſues that chain which links th' immenſe deſign,
Joins heav'n and earth, and mortal and divine;
Sees, that no being any bliſs can know,
But touches ſome above, and ſome below;
Learns, from this union of the riſing Whole,
The firſt, laſt purpoſe of the human ſoul;
And knows where Faith, Law, Morals, all began,
All end, in LOVE OF GOD, and LOVE OF MAN.

MRS. ELIZABETH ROWE.

MRS. ELIZABETH ROWE, not more admired by the ingenious for her underſtanding, than eſteemed by her acquaintance, for the amiable qualities of her heart, was born at Ilcheſter, in Somerſetſhire, Sept. 11, 1674, being the eldeſt of three daughters of Mr. Walter Singer, a gentleman of a good family.

Mr. Singer was religiouſly inclined, as he ſaid himſelf, when about ten years old, had never from that time neglected prayer, and, as far as he knew his own heart, had ſincerely endeavoured to keep a good conſcience; he died, as he had lived, full of that bleſſed calm and peace of mind which ſpring from an humble confidence in the mercy of God. Every one who rightly conſiders ſuch examples, and how naturally

naturally they ariſe out of the principles of the goſpel, muſt be entirely perſuaded by them to embrace it as a moſt ſacred truth.

Thoſe who were acquainted with Mrs. Rowe in her childiſh years, muſt have obſerved many things not common in that age of life, which promiſed the bright day that afterwards enſued; and it muſt have been with peculiar ſatisfaction that her father, in whom natural affection conſpired with a penetrating diſcernment to heighten the pleaſure, beheld the early dawnings of a great and good mind in his charming daughter.

When ſhe received the firſt ſerious impreſſions of religion does not appear; probably as ſoon as ſhe was capable of it, at once perceiving her obligation to the Author of her being.—Of her pious addreſſes, ſhe herſelf thus ſpeaks: "My infant hands were early lifted up, and I ſoon learned to know and acknowledge the God of my fathers."—Though ſhe had an unuſual ſprightlineſs in her temper, yet ſhe was at the ſame time bleſt with a turn of mind for noble and elevated ſubjects, that gave her a high reliſh for the pleaſures of devotion.

There is ſo great a ſimilitude between painting and poetry, being each of them a pleaſing and judicious imitation of nature,

nature, and depending upon the beauty and ſtrength of the imagination, that it is no way ſurpriſing, one who poſſeſſed this faculty in ſo high a degree of perfection ſhould very early diſcover an inclination to theſe two ſiſter arts.

She loved the pencil when ſhe had hardly ſtrength and ſteadineſs of hand ſufficient to guide it. She was alſo much delighted with muſic; chiefly of the grave and ſolemn kind, as beſt ſuited to the grandeur of her ſentiments and the ſublimity of her devotion.

But her ſtrongeſt bent was to poetry and writing. Poetry, indeed, was her favourite employment; in youth, her moſt diſtinguiſhing excellence. So prevalent was her genius this way, that her very proſe poſſeſſes all the charms of verſe, without its fetters; the ſame elevation, bright images, bold figures, and flowing diction. She ſcarcely could write a familiar letter but it bore a poetical ſtamp. One of her acquaintance remembers to have heard her ſay, ſhe began to write verſes at twelve years old.

In the year 1696, the 22d of her age, a collection of her poems, on various occaſions, was publiſhed, at the deſire of two of her friends.

As a proof of her ſerious diſpoſition, ſhe there declares—

"FAR rather would I in ſome humble cell,
Diſtant from all that's gay, for ever dwell,
Than waſte my flying hours, and thus divide
My time, 'twixt folly, calumny, and pride;
Still trifling, thus debaſe the gift of ſenſe,
And live the ſlave of dull impertinence."

The following may ſerve as a ſpecimen of her poetic talents:

"WHILE night in ſolemn triumph reigns,
Aſcend, my ſoul, the heavenly plains;
Thy flight to thoſe gay regions take:
Angels and God are ſtill awake.
The ſmiling ſtars will light thy way
To the gladſome realms of day:
While drowſy men with idle themes,
Fantaſtic joys, and airy dreams,
Are entertain'd; do thou converſe
With heaven, and heavenly ſtrains rehearſe;
Viſit the peaceful climes above,
And through the fields of pleaſure rove;
Forget the ſcenes of care and ſtrife,
And walk among the trees of life;
Taſte the rich fruits of paradiſe,
And bathe in flowing ſtreams of bliſs:
Solac'd in thoſe eternal ſprings,
Loſe every thought of mortal things."

Though many of theſe poems are of the religious kind, and all of them conſiſtent with the ſtricteſt regard to the rules of virtue, yet ſome paſſages in them gave her uneaſineſs in advanced life. To a mind that had ſo entirely ſubdued its paſſions, or devoted them to the honour of its Maker, and endued with the tendereſt moral ſenſe, what ſhe could not abſolutely approve, appeared unpardon-

able; and, not ſatisfied to have done nothing that injured the ſacred cauſe of virtue, ſhe was diſpleaſed with herſelf for having written any thing that did not directly promote it.

Her Paraphraſe of the 38th chapter of Job was compoſed at the requeſt of Biſhop Kenn, and gained her much reputation.

She had no other tutor for the French and Italian languages than the Honourable Mr. Thynne, ſon to Viſcount Weymouth, who willingly took that taſk upon himſelf, and had the pleaſure to ſee his fair ſcholar improve ſo faſt under his leſſons, that in a few months ſhe was able to read Taſſo's Jeruſalem with great eaſe.

Her ſhining merit, with the charms of her perſon and converſation, had procured her many admirers: but Mr. Thomas Rowe was the perſon reſerved by Heaven to be made happy with this amiable woman.

Her exalted merits could hardly fail to inſpire the moſt laſting eſteem; and Mr. Rowe ſeems properly to have valued the treaſure which divine Providence had given to him. Some conſiderable time after his marriage he addreſſed a very tender ode to her under the name of Delia, full of the warmeſt ſentiments of friendſhip and affection.

Mr. Rowe not living very long to enjoy the ſociety of his amiable wife, as ſoon after

after his deceaſe as her affairs would permit, ſhe indulged her unconquerable propenſity for ſolitude, by retiring to Frome, in Somerſetſhire, in the neighbourhood of which place the greater part of her eſtate lay. When ſhe forſook London, ſhe determined to return to it no more, but to paſs the remainder of her life in an abſolute retirement.

It was in this receſs that ſhe compoſed the moſt celebrated of her works, Friendſhip in Death, and the ſeveral parts of the Letters Moral and Entertaining.

The drift of the Letters from the Dead is (as the late Dutcheſs of Somerſet remarked) to impreſs the notion of the ſoul's immortality, without which all virtue and religion, with their temporal and eternal good conſequences, muſt fall to the ground; and to make the mind contract, as it were unawares, an habitual perſuaſion of our future exiſtence, by writings built on that foundation, and addreſſed to the affections and imagination.

It may alſo be added, that her deſign was, by fictitious examples of heroic virtue, and the moſt generous benevolence, to allure the reader to the practice of every thing that ennobles human nature, and benefits the world.

Cowley has obſerved of Mrs. Rowe, "that ſhe poſſeſſed ſo much ſtrength and firmneſs

firmneſs of mind, and ſuch a perfect natural goodneſs, as could not be perverted by the largeneſs of her wit, and was proof againſt the art of poetry itſelf." The elegant Letters which gave occaſion to remark this diſtinction in Mrs. Rowe's character as an author, are not only chaſte and innocent, but greatly ſubſervient to the intereſt of Heaven, and evidently deſigned, by repreſenting Virtue in all her genuine beauty, to recommend her to the choice and admiration of mankind.

Her death (to prepare for which ſhe had made ſo much the buſineſs of her life) befel her, according to her wiſh, in her beloved receſs. She enjoyed an uncommon ſtrength of conſtitution, and had paſſed a long ſeries of years with ſcarce any indiſpoſition ſevere enough to confine her to her bed.

On the day that ſhe was ſeized with a diſtemper, which in a few hours proved mortal, ſhe ſeemed to thoſe about her to be in perfect health and vigour; and in the evening, about eight o'clock, ſhe converſed with a friend, in her wonted vivacity of manner, and not without laughter; after which ſhe retired to her chamber, but expired a few minutes before two in the morning, February 20, 1736-7.

Mrs. Rowe ſeemed, by the gaiety and cheerfulneſs of her temper, to be peculiarly fitted to enjoy life, and all its innocent

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1736

nocent ſatisfactions: yet inſtead of any exceſſive fondneſs for them, her contempt for what ſhe uſed to term a low ſtate of exiſtence, and the ardour with which ſhe breathed after the divine enjoyments of a future world, were inconceivably great.

The news of her death touched the poor and diſtreſſed with inexpreſſible affliction; at her doors, and over her grave, they bewailed the loſs of their benefactreſs, poured forth bleſſings on her memory, and recounted to each other the gentle and condeſcending manner with which ſhe had always heard their requeſts, and the numerous inſtances in which they had experienced her goodneſs and bounty.

Thus, the remembrance of the juſt
Shall bloſſom, even from the duſt.

IGNATIUS SANCHO.

THIS extraordinary negro was born in 1729, on board a ſhip in the ſlave-trade, a few days after it had quitted the coaſt of Guinea for the Spaniſh Weſt Indies, and, at Carthagena, he received baptiſm from the hand of the biſhop, and the name of Ignatius.

At little more than two years old, his maſter brought him to England, and gave

gave him to three maiden ſiſters, reſident at Greenwich, whoſe prejudices had unhappily taught them that African ignorance was the only ſecurity for his obedience, and that to enlarge the mind of their ſlave would go near to emancipate his perſon.

The Duke of Montagu, who lived on Blackheath, accidentally ſaw the little negro, and admired in him a native frankneſs of manner as yet unbroken by ſervitude, and unrefined by education—he brought him ſometimes home to the dutcheſs, indulged his turn for reading with preſents of books, and ſtrongly recommended to his miſtreſſes the duty of cultivating a genius of ſuch apparent fertility.

His miſtreſſes, however, were inflexible, and even threatened, on angry occaſions, to return him to his African ſlavery. But the love of freedom, which had increaſed with years, began to beat high in his boſom; and his intention was to abandon the family.

His noble patron being dead, Ignatius flew to the dutcheſs for protection, who diſmiſſed him with reproof.—He retired from her preſence in a ſtate of deſpondency at his ſituation; but the dutcheſs ſecretly admired his character, and at length conſented to admit him into her houſehold, where he remained as butler

till her death; when he found himſelf, by her grace's bequeſt and his own economy, poſſeſſed of 70*l.* in money, and an annuity of 30*l.*

We are ſorry to remark, that 70*l.* which to ſome would have formed the foundation of a little fortune, was not huſbanded by Sancho ſo well as it ſhould have been; freedom, riches, and leiſure, naturally led a diſpoſition of African texture into indolence; which, added to a generous ſpirit, ſoon drained the purſe of Ignatius.

He turned his mind, therefore, once more to ſervice, and was retained a few months by the chaplain at Montagu-houſe. That roof had been ever auſpicious to him; and the late worthy duke ſoon placed him about his perſon.

Towards the cloſe of the year 1773, repeated attacks of the gout rendered him incapable of farther attendance in his grace's family.

At this criſis, the munificence which had protected him through various viciſſitudes did not fail to exert itſelf; with the reſult of his own frugality, it enabled him and his wife to ſettle themſelves in a ſhop of grocery, in Charles Street, Weſtminſter, where mutual induſtry decently maintained a numerous family of children; and where a life of domeſtic virtue engaged private patronage, and merited public imitation.

Of

Of a negro, a butler, and a grocer, ſlender anecdotes can only be expected to diverſify the page of the biographer; but it has been deemed laudable to give ſome ſketch of the very ſingular man, whoſe *Letters* have engaged ſo many readers, and which entitled and ſecured to him the protection of the great, and the friendſhip of the literary. Theſe *Letters* diſplay ſuch proofs of epiſtolary talents, of rapid and juſt conception, of wild patriotiſm, and of univerſal philanthropy, as evidently prove that the perfection of the reaſoning faculties does not depend on the peculiar colour of the *ſkin*, and ſhow that an untutored African may poſſeſs equal abilities with an European.

The late Dutcheſſes of Queenſberry and Northumberland preſſed forward to ſerve our author; and Garrick and Sterne were familiarly acquainted with him.

A commerce with the Muſes was ſupported amid the trivial and momentary interruptions of a retail ſhop; the Engliſh Poets were ſtudied, and even imitated with ſome ſucceſs.

Such was the man whoſe ſpecies philoſophers and anatomiſts have been deſirous to conſider as a degradation of the human; and ſuch was the man whom Fuller, with a benevolence and quaintneſs of phraſe peculiarly his own, accounteth

"God's image, though cut in ebony."

He who ſhould penetrate the interior of Africa, might, in all probability, diſcover negro arts and polity, which could bear little analogy to the ignorance and groſſneſs of ſlaves in the ſugar-iſlands, decoyed in infancy, and brutalized under the whip of the taſk-maſter. And he who ſurveys the extent of intellect to which Ignatius Sancho had attained by *ſelf-education*, will perhaps conclude, that perfection belonging to man is confined to no ſoil—in defiance of that wild opinion which reſtrains the operations of the mind to particular regions, and ſuppoſes that a luckleſs mortal may be born in a degree of latitude too high or too low for wiſdom or for wit.

He died 1780, and his letters were publiſhed in two volumes, for the benefit of his widow and children.

To record thoſe thoughts which once had a place in the boſom of our honeſt African, we inſert the following epiſtle to a juvenile friend in the Eaſt Indies:

Charles-ſtreet, Feb. 14, 1768.

"*My worthy and much-reſpected Friend,*

"YOUR friendly letter convinced me that you are ſtill the ſame—and gave, in that conviction, a ten-fold pleaſure:—you carried out (through God's grace) an honeſt, friendly heart, a clear, diſcerning head;

head; and a ſoul impreſſed with every humane feeling. That you are ſtill the ſame—I repeat it—gives me more joy than the certainty would of your being worth ten jaghires:—I dare ſay you will ever remember that the trueſt worth is that of the mind—the bleſt rectitude of the heart—the conſcience unſullied with guilt—the undaunted noble eye, enriched with innocence—peace dancing in the heart, and health ſmiling in the face.—May theſe be ever thy companions!—and for riches, you will ever be more than vulgarly rich.

"You have a turn for reflection, and a ſteadineſs, which, aided by the beſt of ſocial diſpoſitions, muſt make your company much coveted, and your perſon loved.—Forgive me, for preſuming to dictate, when I well know you have many friends much more able from knowledge and better ſenſe—though I deny—a better will.

"You will of courſe make men and things your ſtudy—their different genius, aims, and paſſions: you will alſo note climes, buildings, ſoils, and products, which will be neither tedious nor unpleaſant. If you adopt the rule of writing every evening your remarks on the paſt day, it will be a kind of friendly *tête-à-tête* between you and yourſelf, wherein you may ſometimes happily become your

own monitor;—and hereafter thoſe little notes will afford you a rich fund, whenever you ſhall be inclined to re-trace paſt times and places.—I ſay nothing upon the ſcore of religion—for, I am clear, every good affection, every ſweet ſenſibility, every heartfelt joy—humanity, politeneſs, charity—all, all are ſtreams from that ſacred ſpring.

"I have nothing more to ſay. Continue in right thinking, you will of courſe act well: in well-doing, you will inſure the favour of God, and the love of your friends, amongſt whom pray reckon

"Yours faithfully,

"IGNATIUS SANCHO."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

——For lofty ſenſe,
Creative fancy, and inſpection keen,
Through the deep windings of the human heart,
SHAKESPEARE is Albion's and Nature's boaſt!

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, the father of the Engliſh theatre, the great poet of nature, and the glory of the Britiſh nation, was deſcended from a reputable family at Stratford upon Avon. His father, who was a conſiderable dealer in wool,

wool, had ten children, of whom our immortal poet was the eldeſt. He was born April 23, 1564, and put at a proper age to the free-ſchool in Stratford, where he acquired the rudiments of grammar-learning. His father, however, had no deſign to make a ſcholar of him; on the contrary, he took him early from ſchool, and employed him in his own buſineſs: but he did not continue long in it; for, happening to fall into company with ſome perſons who made a frequent practice of deer-ſtealing, he was prevailed upon to engage with them in robbing Sir Thomas Lucy's park, near Stratford. The injury being repeated more than once, that gentleman was provoked to enter a proſecution againſt the delinquents; and Shakeſpeare, in revenge, made him the ſubject of a ballad, which, tradition ſays, was pointed with ſo much bitterneſs, that it became unſafe for the author to ſtay any longer in the country.

To eſcape the law, he fled to London, where, as might be expected from a man of wit and humour, in his circumſtances, he threw himſelf among the players.—His firſt admiſſion into the play-houſe was ſuitable to his appearance; a ſtranger, and ignorant of the art, he was glad to be taken into the company in a very mean rank; nor did his performance

recommend him to any diſtinguiſhed notice.

The part of an under-actor neither engaged nor deſerved his attention; it was far from filling, or being adequate to the powers of his mind; and therefore he turned the advantage which that ſituation afforded him to a higher and nobler uſe. Having, by practice and obſervation, acquainted himſelf with the mechanical economy of the theatre, his native genius ſupplied the reſt: but the whole view of his firſt attempts in ſtage poetry being to procure a ſubſiſtence, he directed his endeavours ſolely to hit the taſte and humour that then prevailed among the meaner ſort of people, of whom his audience was generally compoſed; and, therefore, his images of life were drawn from thoſe of an inferior rank. But when his performances had merited the protection of his prince, and the encouragement of the court had ſucceeded to that of the town, the works of his riper years were manifeſtly raiſed above the level of his former productions.

By what gradations of improvement he roſe from mediocrity to the ſummit of excellence, is not eaſily known. The diligence of Mr. Malone has traced the appearance of Romeo and Juliet back to 1595, and has rendered it ſufficiently probable

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bable that Shakeſpeare commenced a writer for the ſtage in 1591, when he was ſomewhat more than 27 years old.

It is ſaid, that Queen Elizabeth was ſo much pleaſed with the character of Sir John Falſtaff, in the two parts of Henry the Fourth, that ſhe commanded the author to continue it for one play more, and to ſhow the knight in love; which he executed inimitably, in The Merry Wives of Windſor.

The names of his patrons are now unknown, except that of the Earl of Southampton, who is particularly honoured by him in the dedication of two poems, Venus and Adonis, and The Rape of Lucrece: the former publiſhed in 1593; the latter in 1594.

In 1603 he was one of the principal managers of the play-houſe, and continued in it ſeveral years afterwards; till, having acquired ſuch a fortune as ſatisfied his moderate wiſhes and views in life, he quitted the buſineſs of the ſtage, and paſſed the remainder of his days in eaſe and retirement, at his native town of Stratford. There he built his houſe of New Place. But it is not known when he entered on his retired life; nor has any account been tranſmitted of the malady which deprived his country of its brighteſt ornament, when he had exactly completed his 52d year.

He was interred among his anceſtors, on the north ſide of the chancel, in the great church of Stratford, where there is a mural monument erected for him.

In 1740 another very handſome one was raiſed to his memory, at the public expenſe, in Weſtminſter abbey, an ample contribution for that purpoſe being made, upon exhibiting his tragedy of Julius Cæſar, at the theatre royal in Drury-lane, April 28, 1738.

In the Biographia Dramatica is a liſt of our author's plays, ſpecifying the years in which they are ſeverally ſuppoſed to have been written. The arrangement of them is adopted from that of Mr. Malone, whoſe critical diſquiſitions on the ſubject, Mr. Steevens has profeſſed his inability either to diſpute or to improve.

Aubrey ſays, that our great dramatic bard was a handſome, well-ſhaped man, very good company, and of a very ready and pleaſant wit. All who have ſpoken of him, concur in celebrating the gentleneſs of his manners, and the readineſs of his wit.

To his genius and talents the teſtimonies are without number. Dr. Johnſon ſtyles him, above all modern writers, the poet of nature; the poet that holds up to his readers a faithful mirror of manners and of life. Dryden pronounces him the man, who, of all modern and perhaps ancient

ancient poets, had the largeſt and moſt comprehenſive ſoul.

As an uſeful leſſon may be gained by the obſervance of Cardinal Wolſey's laſt words to Cromwell, we tranſcribe them:

"CROMWELL, I did not think to ſhed a tear
In all my miſeries, but thou haſt forc'd me,
Out of thy honeſt truth, to play the woman——
Let's dry our eyes; and thus far hear me, Cromwell,
And when I am forgotten, as I ſhall be,
And ſleep in dull, cold marble, where no mention
Of me muſt more be heard, ſay then I taught thee;
Say, WOLSEY, that once rode the waves of glory,
And ſounded all the depths and ſhoals of honour,
Found thee a way, out of his wreck, to riſe in;
A ſure and ſafe one, though thy maſter miſs'd it.
Mark but my fall, and that which ruin'd me:
Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition;
By that ſin fell the angels; how can man then
(Tho' th' image of his Maker) hope to win by't?
Love thyſelf laſt; cheriſh thoſe hearts that wait thee;
Corruption wins not more than honeſty.
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,
To ſilence envious tongues. Be juſt, and fear not.
Let all the ends thou aim'ſt at be thy country's,
Thy God's, and Truth's; then if thou fall'ſt, O Cromwell,
Thou fall'ſt a bleſſed martyr. Serve the king——
And pr'ythee lead me in——
There take an inventory of all I have,
To the laſt penny, 'tis the king's. My robe,
And my integrity to Heav'n, is all
I dare now call my own. O Cromwell, Cromwell,
Had I but ſerv'd my God with half the zeal
I ſerv'd my king, he would not in mine age
Have left me naked to mine enemies."

JAMES

JAMES THOMSON.

JAMES THOMSON, the ſon of a miniſter well eſteemed for his piety and diligence, was born September 11, 1700, at Ednam, in the ſhire of Roxburgh, of which place his father was paſtor. The revenue of a pariſh in Scotland is ſeldom large, and it was probably in conſideration of the difficulty with which Mr. Thomſon ſupported a family of nine children, that Mr. Riccarton, a neighbouring miniſter, diſcovering in James uncommon promiſes of future excellence, undertook to ſuperintend his education, and provide him books.

He was taught the common rudiments of learning at the ſchool of Jedburgh, a place which he delights to recollect in his poem of *Autumn*. In thoſe early days, he amuſed his patron and his friends with poetical compoſitions; but it is ſaid, that on every New-year's day he threw into the fire all the productions of the foregoing year.

From ſchool he was removed to the univerſity of Edinburgh, where he had not reſided two years when his father died, and left all his children to the care of

of their mother, who raiſed, upon her little eſtate, what money a mortgage could afford, and, removing with her family to Edinburgh, lived to ſee her ſon riſing into eminence.

It was the wiſh of his friends that he ſhould embrace the clerical profeſſion; but the cultivation of poetry appears to have been his darling purſuit: and he eaſily diſcovered that the only ſtage on which a poet could appear, with any hope of advantage, was London; where merit might ſoon become conſpicuous, and would find friends as ſoon as it became reputable to befriend it.

In the autumn of 1725, he embarked at Leith for London. On his arrival, he found his way to Mr. Mallet, then tutor to the ſons of the Duke of Montroſe, to whom he ſhowed his *Winter*, written at firſt in detached pieces, who adviſed him to form them into one connected poem, and get it printed immediately: but for ſome time he could find no purchaſer, till Millan the bookſeller was perſuaded by Mallet to buy it at a low price. In 1726 it was publiſhed, and paſſed through four impreſſions that year.

Winter was dedicated to Sir Spencer Compton, but attracted no regard from him to the author; till Aaron Hill awakened his attention by ſome verſes addreſſed to Thomſon, on publiſhing the ſecond edition,

tion, which cenſured the great for their neglect of ingenious men. Thomſon then obtained his notice, and a preſent of twenty guineas.

The next year (1727) he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by the publication of *Summer*, in purſuance of his plan; and inſcribed it to Mr. Dodington, afterwards Lord Melcombe. At the ſame time appeared *Britannia*, and a poem to the *Memory of Sir Iſaac Newton*.

Spring was publiſhed the year following, with a dedication to the Counteſs of Hertford; whoſe practice it was to invite, every ſummer, ſome poet into the country, to hear her verſes and aſſiſt her ſtudies.

Autumn, the ſeaſon to which the *Spring* and *Summer* were preparatory, ſtill remained unſung, and was delayed till he publiſhed a quarto edition of his works in 1730. In that edition the Seaſons were placed in their natural order, and crowned with an inimitable Hymn; the opening of which we ſhall gratify the reader by inſerting.

"THESE, as they change, ALMIGHTY FATHER, theſe
Are but the *varied* GOD. The rolling year
Is full of Thee. Forth in the pleaſing Spring
Thy beauty walks, *thy* tenderneſs and love.
Wide flush the fields, the ſoftening air is balm,
And every ſenſe, and every heart is joy.
Then comes *thy* glory in the Summer months,
With light and heat refulgent. Then *thy* ſun

Shoots

Shoots full perfection thro' the ſwelling year.
Thy bounty ſhines in Autumn unconfin'd,
And ſpreads a common feaſt for all that lives.
In Winter awful *Thou!* with clouds and ſtorms
Around *Thee* thrown, tempeſt o'er tempeſt roll'd,
Majeſtic darkneſs! on the whirlwind's wing
Riding ſublime, *Thou* bid'ſt the world adore.
Myſterious round! what ſkill, what force divine
Deep felt, in theſe appear! a ſimple train,
Yet ſo delightful mix'd, with ſuch kind art,
Such beauty and beneficence combin'd,
Shade, unperceiv'd, ſo ſoftening into ſhade,
And all ſo forming an harmonious whole,
That, as they ſtill ſucceed, they raviſh ſtill:
And, as on earth this grateful change revolves,
With tranſport touches all the ſprings of life."

He produced in 1729 the tragedy of *Sophoniſba*, which raiſed ſuch expectation that every rehearſal was dignified with a ſplendid audience, collected to anticipate the delight that was preparing for the public.

Thomſon, not long afterwards, by the influence of Dr. Rundle, was ſent to travel with Mr. Charles Talbot, eldeſt ſon of the chancellor. He was yet young enough to receive new impreſſions, to have his opinions rectified, and his views enlarged; nor can he be ſuppoſed to have wanted that curioſity which is inſeparable from an active and comprehenſive mind.

His firſt production, on returning to England, was *Liberty*, a Poem, which failed of obtaining that immediate popularity

pularity which the author had promiſed himſelf.

Not long after its publication, the chancellor died, and Thomſon was again obliged to rely on his literary exertions for ſupport.

He produced, in 1738, the tragedy of *Agamemnon*, which Pope countenanced by appearing at the theatre on the firſt night of repreſentation.

In 1740 he compoſed the maſque of *Alfred*, in conjunction with Mallet.

His next work (1745) was *Tancred and Sigiſmunda*, the moſt ſucceſsful of all his tragedies, and ſtill keeps its turn upon the ſtage.

His friend Mr. Lyttelton was now in power, and conferred upon him the place of ſurveyor general of the Leeward Iſlands; from which, when his deputy was paid, he received about three hundred pounds a year.

The laſt piece that he lived to publiſh was the *Caſtle of Indolence*, which, after being many years under his hand, was at laſt finiſhed with great accuracy.

He was now in a ſituation of eaſe and comfort, but was not long to enjoy it; for, by taking cold on the water, between London and Kew, he caught a diſorder, which, with ſome careleſs exaſperation, terminated in a fever that put an

an end to his life, Auguſt 27, 1748.—He was buried in the church of Richmond, where a braſs tablet has been lately placed over his grave. A neat monument was erected to his memory in Weſtminſter abbey, in 1762.

Mr. Park has paid the following tribute of reſpect to our poet, in a collection of Sonnets lately publiſhed.

Lines written in an Alcove where THOMSON *compoſed his Seaſons.*

Aërial Spirits, who forſook your ſky,
To whiſper charmed ſounds in Thomson's ear,
Or, ſhaded from the ken of groſſer eye,
Did to the bard in holy trance appear;
Still guard the ſacred grove which once was dear,
On every leaf enweave a druid-ſpell,
And ſay to the profane, ſhould ſuch come near,
Here did the woodland-pilgrim form his cell;
The prieſt of nature here his temple plac'd,
And rais'd the incenſe of his ſong on high;
With ſylvan honours was his altar grac'd,
His harp was tun'd to heavenly pſalmiſtry;
Here did he pour to Nature's God the ſtrain!
And ſhould you ſcorn the worſhip, ſhun the fane.

"As a writer," ſays Dr. Johnſon, "he is entitled to one praiſe of the higheſt kind; his numbers, his pauſes, his diction, are of his own growth, without tranſcription, without imitation. He thinks in a peculiar train, and he thinks always as a man of genius; he looks round on nature and on life, with the eye which nature

nature beſtows only on a poet; the eye that diſtinguiſhes, in every thing preſented to its view, whatever there is on which imagination can delight to be detained, and with a mind that at once comprehends the vaſt, and attends to the minute. The reader of the *Seaſons* wonders that he never ſaw before what Thomſon ſhows him, and that he never yet has felt what Thomſon impreſſes.

" His deſcriptions of extended ſcenes and general effects bring before us the whole magnificence of nature, whether pleaſing or dreadful. The gaiety of *Spring*, the ſplendour of *Summer*, the tranquillity of *Autumn*, and the horror of *Winter*, take, in their turns, poſſeſſion of the mind. The poet leads us through the appearances of things as they are ſucceſſively varied by the viciſſitudes of the year, and imparts to us ſo much of his own enthuſiaſm, that our thoughts expand with his imagery, and kindle with his ſentiments."

But the higheſt and nobleſt praiſe obtained by our author, was from his executor Lord Lyttelton, who ſaid that his works contained

" No line which, dying, he could wiſh to blot."

" Thomſon (ſays an anonymous writer) is a poet of the firſt eminence: his manner of thinking was original, his taſte unſul-

unſullied, and his genius and poetry equally great and beautiful. He has depoſited upon the altar of literature a valuable gift, which will ever be read with admiration of his abilities, and gratitude to his memory; and he will always ſhine in the Temple of Fame as a ſtar of permanent ſplendour, whoſe rays can never undergo an eclipſe from modern excellence or ancient renown."

DR. ISAAC WATTS.

ISAAC WATTS was born July 17, 1674, at Southampton, where his father, of the ſame name, kept a boarding-ſchool for young gentlemen, and appears, from the narrative of Dr. Gibbons, to have been neither indigent nor illiterate.

Iſaac, the eldeſt of nine children, was given to books from his infancy; and began, we are told, to learn Latin when he was four years old, probably at home. He was afterwards taught Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, by the Rev. Mr. Pinhorn, maſter of the free-ſchool at Southampton, to whom he afterwards gratefully inſcribed a Latin ode.

His proficiency at ſchool was ſo conſpicuous, that a ſubſcription was propoſed to ſupport him at the univerſity; but he declared his reſolution of adhering to the Diſſenters. Such he was, as every Chriſtian church would rejoice to have adopted. He repaired, in 1690, to an academy taught by Mr. Rowe, where he had for his fellow-ſtudent Hughes the poet.

His method of ſtudy was to impreſs the contents of his books upon his memory by abridging them, and by interleaving them, to amplify one ſyſtem with ſupplements from another.

With the congregation of his tutor Mr. Rowe, who were Independents, he communicated in his nineteenth year.

At the age of twenty he left the academy, where his behaviour had been moſt exemplary, and ſpent two years in ſtudy and devotion at the houſe of his father, who treated him with great tenderneſs; and had the happineſs, indulged to few parents, of living to ſee his ſon eminent for literature, and venerable for piety.

He was then entertained by Sir John Hartopp five years, as domeſtic tutor to his ſon; and in that time particularly devoted himſelf to the ſtudy of the Holy Scriptures; and being choſen aſſiſtant to Dr. Chauncy, preached the firſt time on the birth-day that completed his twenty-

fourth

fourth year; probably conſidering that as the day of a ſecond nativity, by which he entered on a new period of exiſtence.

We afterwards find him one of the family of Sir Thomas Abney, where he continued till his death; a period of no leſs than thirty-ſix years.

From the time of his reception into this family, his life was no otherwiſe diverſified than by ſucceſſive publications. The ſeries of his works, their number, and their variety, ſhow the intenſeneſs of his induſtry, and the extent of his capacity.

He was one of the firſt authors that taught the Diſſenters to court attention by the graces of language. Whatever they had among them before, whether of learning or acuteneſs, was commonly obſcured and blunted by coarſeneſs and inelegance of ſtyle. He ſhowed them, that zeal and purity might be expreſſed and enforced by poliſhed diction.

By his natural temper he was quick of reſentment; but, by his habitual practice, he was gentle, modeſt, and inoffenſive. His tenderneſs appeared in his attention to children, and to the poor. To the poor, while he lived in the family of his friend, he allowed the third part of his annual revenue, though the whole was not a hundred a year; and for children, he condeſcended to lay aſide the ſcholar, the philoſopher, and the wit, to write little poems

of

of devotion, and ſyſtems of inſtruction, adapted to their wants and capacities, from the dawn of reaſon through its gradations of advance in the morning of life. Every man, acquainted with the common principles of human action, will look with veneration on the writer, who is at one time combating Locke, and at another, making a catechiſm for children in their fourth year. A voluntary deſcent from the dignity of ſcience is, perhaps, the hardeſt leſſon that humility can teach.

Of his philoſophical pieces, his Logic has been received into the univerſities, and therefore wants no private recommendation. Few books have been peruſed with greater pleaſure than his Improvement of the Mind, of which the radical principles may indeed be found in Locke's Conduct of the Underſtanding, but they are ſo expanded and ramified by Watts, as to confer upon him the merit of a work, in the higheſt degree uſeful and pleaſing. Whoever has the care of inſtructing others, may be charged with deficience in his duty if this book is not recommended.

He continued many years to ſtudy and to preach, and to do good by his inſtruction and example; till at laſt the infirmities of age diſabled him from the more laborious part of his miniſterial functions, and, being no longer capable of public duty, he offered to remit the ſalary appendant to it; but his

his congregation would not accept the reſignation.

By degrees his weakneſs increaſed, and at laſt confined him to his chamber and his bed; where he was worn gradually away without pain, till he expired November 25, 1748, in the ſeventy-fifth year of his age.

As a poet, had he been only a poet, he would have probably ſtood high among other authors;—for his judgment was exact, and he noted beauties and faults with a very nice diſcernment. The following extract will give the reader an idea of his talent for this ſpecies of compoſition:

Lines addreſſed to John Hartopp, Eſq.

Live, my dear Hartopp! live to-day,
Nor let the ſun look down and ſay,
"Inglorious here he lies:"
Shake off your eaſe, and ſend your name
To immortality and fame,
By every hour that flies.

Youth's a ſoft ſcene, but truſt her not;
Her airy minutes, ſwift as thought,
Slide off the ſlippery ſphere;
Moons, with their months, make haſty rounds,
The ſun has paſs'd his vernal bounds,
And whirls about the year.

Not half ſo faſt the galley flies
O'er the Venetian ſea,
When ſails, and oars, and lab'ring ſkies,
Contend to make her way.

Swift wings for all the flying hours,
The God of time prepares;
The reſt lie ſtill yet in their neſt,
And grow for future years.

Few men have left behind ſuch purity of character, or ſuch monuments of laborious piety. He has provided inſtruction for all ages, from thoſe who are liſping their firſt leſſons, to the enlightened readers of Malbranche and Locke. He has left neither corporeal nor ſpiritual nature unexamined; he has taught the art of reaſoning, and the ſcience of the ſtars.

MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES WOLFE.

JAMES WOLFE was the ſon of lieutenant-general Edward Wolfe, an officer of diſtinguiſhed worth, who ſerved under the Duke of Marlborough, and was very active under General Wightman, in ſuppreſſing the rebellion of 1715, in Scotland. His renowned ſon was born at Weſterham, in the county of Kent, January, 1726. It is to be lamented that we have no memoirs of his juvenile years; for in the firſt dawnings of reaſon, men of ſuperior genius often diſcover unerring indications of uncommon abilities; perhaps in his very ſports

ſports and paſtimes we might have traced that amazing fortitude, indefatigable aſſiduity, cool judgment, and alacrity, for which he was afterwards ſo juſtly famed.

He muſt have been educated for the army almoſt from his infancy, ſince honourable mention is made of his perſonal bravery at the battle of La-feldt, in Auſtrian Flanders, fought in the year 1747, when he was only in the twentieth year of his age. The gradations of his riſe are not aſcertained; we are only informed, that, during the whole war, he continued improving his military talents, that he was preſent at every engagement, and never paſſed undiſtinguiſhed. His promotion, therefore, muſt have been as rapid as his merit was great.

In the year 1754 a freſh rupture with France ſeemed inevitable, but war was not formally declared till 1756; and for a ſhort time nothing but diſappointments and loſſes attended the Britiſh arms, till Mr. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, being firmly ſeated at the head of adminiſtration, gave one of the moſt ſtriking proofs of his ſuperior abilities, by ſeeking for, and employing in the land and ſea ſervice, men of the moſt enterpriſing and active genius, who had ſignalized themſelves upon important occaſions, either from their years or experience. Of this number was Colonel Wolfe, who was

raiſed by the miniſter to the rank of brigadier-general, and ſent out under Major-General Amherſt, upon the grand expedition againſt Louiſbourg, the capital of the iſland of Cape-Breton. At the ſiege of this important place he greatly raiſed his military reputation; for he was the firſt general officer who landed the left diviſion of the army, amidſt the ſtrong and continued fire of the enemy from their batteries on the ſhore. The indefatigable Wolfe, with his detached party, raiſed ſeveral batteries, wherever he found a proper ſituation for annoying the enemy; and theſe did great execution, both within the town, and upon the ſhipping in the harbour. On the 27th of July, 1758, Louiſbourg ſurrendered, and Captain Amherſt was diſpatched in a veſſel to carry the joyful news to England; he alſo carried with him eleven pair of colours taken at the ſiege, which were carried in great triumph from the palace at Kenſington to St. Paul's.

The principal ſhare Brigadier Wolfe was known to have had in this important conqueſt, induced Mr. Pitt to make choice of him to command a ſtill more capital expedition the enſuing campaign: with this view, he was promoted to the rank of major-general.

The plan of operations for the campaign of 1759 in North America was then concerted

certed in the cabinet; and it was reſolved that Wolfe, as ſoon as the ſeaſon of the year would admit, ſhould ſail up the river St. Laurence, with a body of 8000 men, aided by a conſiderable ſquadron of ſhips from England, to undertake the ſiege of Quebec. The fleets from England deſtined for that expedition, under the command of the admirals Saunders and Holmes, arrived at Louiſbourg in May, and took on board the land-forces, whoſe operations at Quebec were to be conducted by General Wolfe, as commander in chief. The armament ſailed up the river St. Laurence without any interruption, and, about the latter end of June, the troops were landed in two diviſions upon the iſle of Orleans, a little below Quebec.

General Wolfe, upon landing, publiſhed a manifeſto, offering every protection and indulgence to the inhabitants, if they would remain neuter; he repreſented to them, in the ſtrongeſt terms, the folly of reſiſtance, as the Engliſh fleet were maſters of the river St. Laurence, ſo as to intercept all ſuccours from Europe. This humane declaration, which, to the honour of General Wolfe, was penned in the moſt perſuaſive and pathetic ſtyle, had no immediate effect.

The city of Quebec was ſkilfully fortified, defended by a numerous garriſon, and plentifully ſupplied with proviſions

and ammunition. Montcalm, the French general, had reinforced the troops of the colony with five regular battalions, formed of the choiceſt citizens, and had completely diſciplined all the Canadians of the neighbourhood capable of bearing arms, with the ſeveral tribes of ſavages. With this army he had taken poſt in a very advantageous ſituation along the ſhore, every acceſſible part of his camp being deeply intrenched.

In July the Britiſh forces croſſed the north channel in boats, and encamped on the banks of the river Montmorenci, which ſeparated them from the left diviſion of the enemy's camp; by which means they could watch an opportunity of engaging Montcalm upon more advantageous terms, than directly to attack his intrenchments.

At length diſpoſitions were made for attacking the enemy's intrenchments, in order to bring on a general engagement; and, on the laſt day of July, it was reſolved to ſtorm a redoubt built cloſe to the water's edge, and within gun-ſhot of the intrenchments: but, inſtead of defending it, which muſt have produced the effect Wolfe expected, the French abandoned it; and thirteen companies of our grenadiers, animated by the confuſion they obſerved the French were thrown into from the hot fire kept up by the Centurion, while the troops were landing from boats,

on

on the enemy's ſide of the river, inconſiderately ruſhed on to the French intrenchments, without waiting for the diſembarkation of the reſt of the army; this ill-timed impetuoſity, and another accident of ſome boats getting aground off Point Levi, diſconcerted the whole plan, for the grenadiers were repulſed.

Deprived of all hopes of reinforcement, General Wolfe returned without moleſtation to his old camp on the other ſide of the river; and here diſappointment and fatigue threw him into a fever and flux, which reduced him very low. In this unhappy ſtate of mind and body, he diſpatched an expreſs to England with an account of his proceedings, but written in the ſtyle of a deſponding man. Yet, ſuch was the perſpicuity and accuracy of his juſtification of his meaſures, that the diſpatch was received with applauſe, though the expedition had not been ſucceſsful.

As ſoon as the general recovered a little ſtrength, he went on board the admiral's ſhip; and theſe two commanders, with a proper armament, ſailed up the river, paſſed the town unmoleſted, and reconnoitred it, in order to judge if an aſſault was practicable.

A reſolution was now formed to change the plan of operations; and the three brigadiers adviſed the general to tranſport the

the troops in the night, and land them within a league of Cape Diamond, below the town, in hopes of aſcending the Heights of Abraham (which riſe abruptly with a ſteep aſcent from the banks of the river), that they might gain poſſeſſion of the plain at the back of the city.

The neceſſary preparations being made, and the time fixed for this aſtoniſhing attempt, Admiral Holmes, in order to deceive the enemy, moved with his ſquadron higher up the river than the old camp; but in the night, purſuant to his inſtructions, fell down the river to cover the landing of the troops. About one in the morning the firſt embarkation (conſiſting of four complete regiments, the light infantry, commanded by Colonel Howe, a detachment of Highlanders, and the American grenadiers), fell gently down the river in flat-bottom boats, under the conduct of Brigadiers Monckton and Murray; General Wolfe accompanied them, and was among the firſt who landed.—Montcalm was thunderſtruck on hearing that the Engliſh had gained the Heights of Abraham; and knowing the weakneſs of the city on that ſide, he was at no loſs to determine that a general engagement was unavoidable.

About nine in the morning the enemy advanced to the charge with great order and reſolution, but their fire was irregular and

and ineffectual. The British forces, on the contrary, reserved their shot until the French had approached within forty yards of their line: then they poured in a terrible discharge, and continued the fire with great activity and success. General Wolfe was stationed on the right, the post of honour, for here the attack was most warm. As he stood, dauntless and conspicuous, in the front of the line, he was aimed at by the enemy's marksmen, and received a shot in his wrist; but neither pain nor danger had any effect to make him retire from his station. Having wrapped a handkerchief round his wrist, he continued to give his orders without emotion, and advanced at the head of the grenadiers, with their bayonets fixed, when another ball (probably from the same marksman) pierced the breast of this intrepid hero, who fell in the arms of victory, just as the enemy gave way.

The wounded general was carried off to a small distance in the rear, where, roused from fainting fits, in the agonies of death, by the loud cry of *They run! they run!* he with great eagerness inquired, "Who run?" and being told, the French were defeated; he added, in a faltering voice, "Then I thank God; I die contented!" and almost instantly expired.

One glorious hour a life of fame ſupplied,
He plan'd, he fought, he conquer'd, ſmil'd,—and died!

A mixture of general concern attended the national triumph upon this occaſion, and was ſtrongly expreſſed in the congratulatory addreſſes, preſented by all the corporate bodies of the three kingdoms, to George II.

The private character of General Wolfe was not leſs exalted than his public, and equally exemplary. With the greateſt independency of ſpirit, he was free from pride. Generous, almoſt to profuſion; he contemned the accumulation of wealth; while he eagerly ſearched after objects for his charity and beneficence: the deſerving ſoldier never went unrewarded, and the needy inferior officers often experienced his bounty. Conſtant and diſcerning in his attachments; manly and unreſerved, yet gentle, kind, and conciliating in his manners; he enjoyed a large ſhare of the friendſhip, and almoſt the univerſal goodwill of mankind: to crown all, ſincerity and candour, a true ſenſe of honour, juſtice, and public liberty, ſeemed the inherent principles of his nature, and were the uniform rules of his conduct.—A noble cenotaph is erected in Weſtminſter abbey, with the following inſcription:

To

To the memory of
JAMES WOLFE, ESQ.
Major-general and commander in chief
of the Britiſh land-forces
on an expedition againſt Quebec,
who, ſurmounting by ability and valour
all obſtacles of art and nature,
was ſlain in the moment of victory,
at the head of his conquering troops,
on the 13th of Sept. 1759,
The King and the Parliament of
Great Britain,
dedicate this monument.

DR. EDWARD YOUNG.

THE celebrated author of the Night Thoughts was born in the year 1681, at Upham, in Hampſhire, of which place his father, Dr. Edward Young, dean of Sarum, was then rector. At a proper age the dean placed his ſon on the foundation of Wincheſter ſchool, where he remained till the election after his eighteenth birth-day; when, not being choſen to New college, Oxford, he was entered an independent member of that ſociety, that he might live at little expenſe in the warden's lodgings, who was a particular friend of his father. In a few months the warden of New college died; he then removed to Corpus college. In 1708, he was nominated to a law-fellowſhip at All Souls by

by Archbiſhop Teniſon, into whoſe hands it came by devolution. In 1714 he took the degree of bachelor of civil law; and in 1719 he became a doctor of laws. At the latter period he was received into the Earl of Exeter's family, as tutor to Lord Burleigh; which ſituation he ſoon quitted, at the inſtigations of the Duke of Wharton.

About the year 1713 our author publiſhed a Poem on the Laſt Day, in three books; which coming from the pen of a layman, was honoured with peculiar applauſe. This production was ſoon followed by another, entitled, The Force of Religion, or Vanquiſhed Love; founded on the execution of Lady Jane Grey, and her huſband, Lord Guildford Dudley.

He had applied himſelf to the ſtudy of poetry with ſuch ſucceſs, that he produced in 1719 a tragedy, called Buſiris, which was acted with applauſe; and, in 1721, this play was followed by another, entitled, The Revenge, his moſt approved dramatic performance. He afterwards brought a third tragedy upon the ſtage, entitled, The Brothers. The profits of this play he hoped would amount to 1000*l.* and he appropriated them to the ſociety for the propagation of the goſpel. In his calculation he was deceived: for the play did not ſucceed. But he generouſly made up the ſum he originally intended, from his

his own pocket. While this production failed to increaſe his literary reputation, it added to the character of his humanity.

His *Satires* were originally publiſhed ſeparately. The firſt appeared in 1725, the ſixth not till 1728. By theſe he is ſaid to have acquired more than 3000*l.* They were entitled The Love of Fame, or the Univerſal Paſſion, and were well received by the public; but his moſt popular production was his Night Thoughts, which ſtill continues a deſerving favourite. It appeared in 1742.

In 1755 he publiſhed, The Centaur not fabulous; in Six Letters to a Friend, on the Life in Vogue.

In the year 1730 he was preſented by his college to the valuable rectory of Welwyn, in Hertfordſhire.—Polite literature ſtill attracted his regard, and, amidſt his ſeverer ſtudies, he continued to cultivate his poetical talent.

In 1731 he married Lady Elizabeth Lee, widow of Colonel Lee, and daughter to the Earl of Lichfield. He died in 1765, and was buried in the chancel of his pariſh church.

As Dr. Young poſſeſſed ſo much merit, and had been appointed chaplain to King George II. ſo early as the year 1728, it has been thought extraordinary that he never obtained any preferment in the church, but ended his days upon a living,

which came to him from his college without any favour. As a preacher, he was much followed, for the grace and animation of his delivery.—It is told of him, as he was once preaching in his turn at St. James's, he plainly perceived it was out of his power to command the attention of his audience; this ſo affected his feelings, that he ſat down in the pulpit, and burſt into tears.

He was a poet of original genius and the moſt copious invention. In his Night Thoughts he has exhibited a wide diſplay of his powers. It is a wilderneſs of thought; in which the fertility of fancy ſcatters flowers of every hue, and every odour. He was a man of great piety, and of amiable and virtuous manners in private life. The turn of his mind was naturally ſolemn; and, during his reſidence in the country, he commonly ſpent ſome hours in a day among the tombs in his own church-yard. His writings have been tranſlated into various languages, and, from poſſeſſing a peculiar moral tendency, have obtained an univerſal reputation.

The following encomiaſtic CENTO, taken from the *Night Thoughts*, is now firſt printed:

To wake the ſoul to ſenſe of future ſcenes,
To rouſe the careleſs, the preſumptuous awe,
And turn the tide of ſouls another way;
Bid Virtue's ray divine inſpire the ſoul
With unprecarious flow'rs of vital joy,

Was

Was thy bleſt enterpriſe, ethereal Bard!
Whom not the laurel but the palm inſpir'd.
O! what voluminous inſtruction thine!
Preface and comment to the ſacred page,
A page where triumphs immortality!
And what, O man! ſo worthy to be ſung,
What more prepares us for the ſongs of heav'n?
Has not his muſe aſſerted pleaſures pure
Like thoſe above, exploding other joys?
In ardent Contemplation's rapid car
His artificial airy journey ta'en,
And to celeſtial lengthen'd human views?
O how unlike thoſe vermin of the night,
Who crawl on earth, and on her venom feed!
Genius and Art,—Ambition's boaſted wings,
Our boaſt but ill deſerve:—'twas thine, O YOUNG!
Equal to riſe in ſcience and in worth,
Initiate in the ſecrets of the ſkies!
Through many a field of moral and divine
Thy muſe has ſtray'd, and much of ſorrow ſeen
In human ways, and much of falſe and vain:
Of love divine the wonders ſhe diſplay'd,
Prov'd man immortal, ſhow'd the ſource of joy,
The grand tribunal rais'd: aſſign'd the bounds
Of human grief. In few, to cloſe the whole,
Thy moral muſe has ſhadow'd out a ſketch
Of moſt our weakneſs needs believe or do,
In this our land of travel and of hope,
For peace on earth, or proſpect of the ſkies!
Fain would I pay thee with eternity,
But ill my genius anſwers my deſire;
Accept the will, it dies not with my ſtrain.

T. P.

FINIS.

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